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TOPICS OF THE DAY.

THE International Exhibition is pre-eminently the affair of the day just now, and will remain so until some time after its opening, in spite of budgets, revised codes, Polish and Italian debates, and any other counter attractions that Parliament may have to offer. Indeed, until the great opening day shall have passed the voice of Parliament will scarcely be heard, and unless some awkward (but quite possible) complications in European politics occur to break the monotony of its debates on subjects already as familiar as they are dull, even the most intelligent and studious of our foreign visitors will find the Opera a more interesting place than the British House of Commons. The general mass of Continental sightseers will, of course, prefer the attractions of Cremorne to any that a mere legislative body could offer at any time; but among the peculiarities of English public life a Parliamentary debate is certainly one that educated foreigners ought to witness; and we are not quite sure that a sort of "model" or "exhibition" debate ought not to be got up for their special entertainment and improvement. If our hint were to be adopted, all we should ask in return would be that Italy should not be made the subject of discussion, as in that case all the talking (to judge from recent examples) would be left to Sir G. Bowyer and Messrs. Maguire and Hennessy; and the country would be disgraced by the expression of opinions on the part of gentlemen supposed to represent some sort of British interest, which would scarcely be avowed by the tyrants, torturers, brigands, and lazzaroni whose cause they undertake to defend. Any badness that may be perpetrated by an Emperor who has signed a concordat with the Pope, by a King who loves the Pope and obeys him in all things, or by the Pope himself, is quite good enough for a thorough-going Irish member. Mr. Hennessy told the House the other night that the Poles ought never to cease their agitation until they had regained "their ancient institutions and their ancient throne"—neither

of which, by-the-way, the Poles desire. In the same way, he seems to think that the Pope and Francis II. ought never to cease their agitation and their open encouragement of brigandage until the ancient Neapolitan throne (without any Constitution at all, but with a great many prisons, and with a whole arsenal of instruments of torture) be reinstituted in the ex-kingdom of the Two Sicilies. The Irish Romanists have only one rule for foreign politics. They support Poland, not because Poland deserves support and because we are bound to her by treaties,

but because the Pope wishes it; and they attack United Italy, not because Italy deserves to be attacked, but because such is the Pope's desire. How different the whole thing would be if the King of Naples were a member of the Greek Church and the Empress of Russia a Roman Catholic!

What is to be the end of the Ionian agitation? That it is unjust, absurd, that it has nothing to stand upon, that it has neither an historical nor a national basis, we know well

ago, has been printed in all the daily journals, and with it the reply of Sir Henry Storks, the Lord High Commissioner. We are not told, however, by how great a majority it was adopted, nor is any explanation given as to the precise meaning of the references it contains to "the ills endured by the Ionian people," and to the alleged "violation of the constitutional rights of representation," and the conversion of the "protection due to Ionians abroad" into "oppression." The Ionian

Assembly should quote examples of the persecution of which it complains; but it is more than possible that no such examples could be adduced, for what the Ionians want is, not to be governed well by the English, even if the English would pay them liberally for the privilege of governing them, and would rule them with all possible mildness combined with justice; what they desire is to be united at all hazards to the kingdom of Greece. They say (falsely, as we believe) that the "protection" of England is a harsh and tyrannical persecution; but they scarcely conceal that they would object to it in any case.

England is charged, in general terms, with "introducing a system for the ruin of the independence of the Ionian people, which European treaties imposed upon them acknowledged and proclaimed;" and, though the Opposition newspapers of Corfu publish every day the most unjust and insolent attacks upon our Government, the Assembly declares that "arbitrariness has become the rule by which the State is governed" (as if the very Assembly which speaks had no existence!), and that "the expression of opinion has been circumscribed and even punished, while personal liberty has been outraged, and deplorable oppression exercised."

To this Sir Henry Storks fitly replies that "the population increases, the revenue augments, commerce flourishes, and the actual prosperity of the islands is everywhere apparent." "Among other social blessings conferred on these States," he continues, "individual and public security is enjoyed in the highest degree, and political

and personal liberty in opinion, speech, and action is permitted to an extent unknown in other countries." The real grievances of which the Ionians would have a right to complain, if they made any reasonable endeavours to remedy them, proceed from "the imperfect and impracticable Constitution which the protecting Power has endeavoured to reform, but in which endeavour the Legislative Assembly of the eleventh Parliament refused to afford its assistance."

However, as we said before, the real aim of the Ionians is,



CAPT. COWPER PHIPPS COLES, R.N., INVENTOR OF THE CUPOLA-SHIPS.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH.)

enough; but what we do not know, and what no newspaper correspondent or member of Parliament, or even the recently-published Ionian blue-book, informs us of, is the extent to which the agitation exists. It is very easy to say, as is generally said in English newspapers, that it is all the work of a clique; but a majority of the Ionian Assembly is not a clique, and the addresses voted periodically by that body are said to have been adopted all but unanimously. The Address of the twelfth Parliament, which was convoked a few days

not to obtain good government for their islands, for that—since they have a perfect system of self-government already—they might of themselves secure, but simply to free themselves from English protection. Mr. Gladstone offered them everything, during his celebrated mission, except the one thing which they declare to be needful to their happiness; and, accordingly, everything which he proposed to them was rejected. It can be seen from the Ionian blue-book that, apart from their sentimental quasi-patriotic grievance, they have no hardships, no injustice whatever to complain of. In affairs of sentiment it is, of course, not every one who can pronounce an opinion; and, naturally, an Ionian feels quite differently to an Englishman on the subject of Ionian nationality—the latter, to tell the truth, having generally no feeling on the subject at all. To any Englishman, however, who will take the trouble to think of the matter for a moment, and who will try to fancy himself in the position of an Ionian, it will be clear that there is something in their Pan-Hellenic aspirations—something not unintelligible on their part, though it may not suit us, and though we may be quite justified in not attending to it. It is not our fault that there has lately been an “awakening of nationality” in the Ionian Islands, and that the inhabitants of the Septinsular Republic have just discovered (or, at least, only during the last few years been much struck by the fact) that they are Greeks. We never detached them from Greece. We presided at no Hellenic partition. We found the Ionians under an impossible Italian Government, and they were placed under English protection by the European Powers at the signing of the Treaty of Vienna in 1815. So, it will be said, were Venetia and Lombardy placed under Austrian protection—or rather under Austrian absolute government; and so was the kingdom of Poland subjected to the nominally constitutional rule of Russia. But at least England kept her agreement fairly, and even gave it a most liberal interpretation as towards the Ionians; whereas Austria behaved with intolerable cruelty in Italy, and Austria, Russia, and Prussia broke long since every clause in that portion of the Treaty of Vienna which relates to Poland. Without entering into the modern theory of “nationality,” on which alone rests the claim of the Ionians to join themselves to their brother Greeks, we may safely say that we have a legal right to continue our protection of the islands as long as we give the inhabitants no pretext for complaint other than our disinclination to leave them a prey to the first great Power that might feel inclined to disannex them after their annexation to the not very strong or stable kingdom of Greece.

CAPTAIN COWPER PHIPPS COLES, R.N.

CAPTAIN COLES, whose merits as an inventor the Admiralty has at last been forced to acknowledge, is the third son of the Rev. John Coles, of Ditcham Park, Rector of Silchester, by his first wife, a daughter of a naval Captain, and sister-in-law of the late Admiral Lord Lyons, G.C.B. Having entered the Navy in December, 1831, Captain Coles served for three years under Lord Lyons in the Mediterranean as first-class volunteer and midshipman. He witnessed Ibrahim Pasha's bombardment of St. Jean d'Acre, passed his examination in August, 1838, and in October following was appointed mate of the *Ganges*, 84, under Captain Baring Reynolds. During the operations in 1840 on the coast of Syria, Mr. Coles landed in command of a fieldpiece. After various services and some ill-health, he was appointed senior mate of Sir Wm. Parker's flagship the *Hibernia*, 104, on Jan. 7, 1846. Soon after this he received his Lieutenant's commission. He twice served on board the *St. Vincent*, once under Sir Charles Napier; and in May, 1853, became senior of the *Sybil* under Captain the Hon. Brydone Elliott, and sailed for Trincomalee. On his arrival there, finding he had been nominated Flag Lieutenant to his old Captain, then Rear-Admiral Lyons, he returned overland from India, and rejoined the *Agamemnon*. He witnessed the operations in the Black Sea, the bombardment of Odessa, assisted in reducing the town of Redout-Kaleh, and the forts on the Circassian coast, &c., and took part in October, 1854, in the attack on the sea defences of Sebastopol. Here Lieutenant Coles displayed conspicuous gallantry, which was noticed in glowing terms by Sir Edmund Lyons. When the *Agamemnon* and *Sanspareil* were alone, and sorely pressed under the fire of Fort Constantine, Lieutenant Coles volunteered to take an order to Lord George Paulet, and, adds Sir Edmund, “I really believe that he was the means of saving the *Sanspareil*.” His conduct was characterised by the *Quarterly Review* as “an act of devotion and courage rarely exceeded;” but this act failed to obtain for him the Victoria Cross, to which he was fairly entitled. Admiral Lyons, however, presented him with the Commander's commission sent blank to the latter from the Admiralty.

In January, 1855, Captain Coles was nominated Second Captain of the *Rodney*, 90; and in May following was appointed to the *Stromboli*, of 6 guns. He accompanied the expedition to Kerch, and entered the Sea of Azoff with the force under Captain Edmund Lyons. In addition to contributing to the destruction of stores, he was engaged in the attack of an hour and a half's duration on the fort of Arabat, mounting 30 guns, on which occasion the enemy's magazine blew up. He assisted in burning a vast amount of Russian stores, and, two days prior to the attack on Taganrog, finding that the water was so shallow and full of shoals that the *Recruit*, Danube, and French steamer *Mouette* were the only vessels which could get even as near as 1400 yards to the place, Captain Coles conceived the idea of building a raft capable of drawing less than two feet of water, which should carry a long 32-pounder. He set to work, and by eight the next morning his men had got ready the raft, the *Lady Nancy*, with the gun mounted, and 100 rounds ready for service. On the following day, twelve armed launches having arrived from the fleet, the attack took place under the command of Captain Coles, whose raft, from its lightness, took up a most effective position within point-blank range, and greatly contributed to the success of the day. After the fall of Sebastopol, at which he was present, Captain Coles proceeded to Kinburn to intercept any Russian steamers which might try to escape; and whilst on this duty he reconnoitred the works, of which he made drawings, and, by opening fire on their working parties, obliged the enemy to unmask their batteries. The *Stromboli* and her commander took part in the successful attack on the 17th of October, and was attached to the squadron of Sir Houston Stewart, which forced an entrance into Dnieper Bay and took up a position inside Kinburn Spit. In the following November a board was appointed by the Commander-in-Chief to report upon Captain Coles's method and plans for the construction of shotproof rafts. So favourable was this

report, for which Captain Coles had prepared drawings and models, that, in expectation of the war continuing, he was ordered home, and put into communication with the dockyard authorities at Portsmouth and the Surveyor of the Navy. The cessation of hostilities prevented further proceedings.

Captain Coles was advanced to his present rank in February, 1856, since which time he has been on half-pay. He is a Knight of the Legion of Honour, and has received the Syrian, Crimean (Sebastopol and Azoff) clasps, and Turkish medals. He married, in 1856, the daughter of H. S. Pearson, Esq. It is not too much to say that a candid examination of the plans of the Monitor and Merrimac will prove that whatever there may be meritorious in either has been suggested by Captain Coles's lectures, pamphlets, and plans, which he has from time to time published. His last pamphlet on shotproof gun-shields, being the report of a lecture delivered in June, 1860, at the United Service Institution, is that which has probably been consulted by the constructor of the Monitor. Further details connected with the gallant Captain's inventions will be found on another page.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

It is officially announced in Paris that the Emperor “has not yet definitely determined to visit either England or Prussia this season,” as had been generally rumoured.

The Lavolette v. Goyon question still occupies attention in Paris, and does not seem to be at all settled. M. Lavolette has been to London,—according to some accounts, on purely personal business; according to others, to endeavour to arrange an exchange of posts with Count Flahault, French Ambassador at the Court of St. James's. It is still positively asserted that the Marquis will not return to Rome so long as General Goyon continues in command there.

A report that the Comte de Chambord is likely to be blessed with an heir has put all the Legitimist salons of Paris in a flutter of expectancy.

The subject of iron-clad ships was occupying much attention in Paris as well as here, the French taking great pains to persuade themselves, on marvellously slight grounds, that England's supremacy at sea is gone. Captain Coles will probably be able to give a perfectly satisfactory refutation to that notion—that is, if official obtuseness will allow him. Prince de Joinville is said to be about to publish a pamphlet on iron-plated frigates. His work, it is said, will present the subject under new aspects. He does not admit the invulnerability of the new vessels.

SPAIN.

Assurances still continue to be issued from Spain that, provided the satisfaction the Spanish Government requires can be obtained pacifically from Mexico, Spain will not interfere with the internal policy of the country. Is not Spain protesting somewhat too much?

ITALY.

The Italian Chambers have been adjourned until May; and every preparation is being made for the Royal journey to Naples. The King, in removing his Court to Naples for a month, intends to give a series of splendid fêtes, to which the most influential personages in the Neapolitan provinces will be invited. After leaving Naples, Victor Emmanuel will proceed to Sicily.

Signor Ratazzi has issued a circular to the different prefects throughout the kingdom of Italy. The only passage which is of much interest to a foreign reader is one in which Ratazzi declares that the policy of the Italian Government is fully inspired by the ideas of national unity and liberty. “While the work of unification is proceeding,” declares the Minister, “two political programmes are impossible.”

Rumours are current in Turin that the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs has addressed most energetic remonstrances to the Prussian Minister, Baron Brassier de St. Simon, in charge of Austrian interests at the Court of Turin. The objections of the Italian Government relate to the concentration of Bourbon adherents at Trieste and their embarkation to augment the numbers of the brigands in Southern Italy.

The brigand movement is still in active preparation, and a somewhat singular report has recently arrived touching the arrest of an Englishman, one Mr. James Bishop, at Gaeta, who is averred to be a leading organiser and conspirator of the Bourbon party. Bishop is a convert from Protestantism, and was in possession when arrested of a mass of treasonable correspondence. The statement that he is a relative of Lord Derby, which has been made in a Brussels journal, is, of course, unworthy of attention.

Owing to certain information received, the police of Bologna searched on the 5th instant the houses of Monsignore Canzio, the Capitular Vicar, and of several parish priests. The consequence was that not only a number of copies of a Latin circular, which the Government knew to have been addressed to the priests of the diocese, who were therein exhorted to induce soldiers to desert from the Italian army, was found in Mgr. Canzio's possession, but also the Papal bull in which the Pope authorised the compilation of that circular. A Neapolitan friar was arrested on the same day while in the act of proposing desertion to several soldiers.

PRUSSIA.

The excitement consequent on the approaching elections still continues, and Government officials are taking the most extraordinary means to induce the electors to return candidates favourable to the views of the Court party. The “revolutionary” or “Parliamentary” party—for the terms are used as synonymous by the opponents of progress—is denounced in the most unmeasured terms. Little effect, however, is believed to be produced, and in many cases the public functionaries object to be dictated to by the Ministry as to how they shall vote. Among the protests sent in against the Ministerial circulars commanding the functionaries to vote for the Government candidates, is a letter from the tribunal of Trèves. “We are compelled unanimously,” say the Judges of this district, “to declare that in the expression of our political opinions we must decline even the best-intentioned counsels; we wish in the exercise of our rights to preserve complete independence, and we resolutely repel all external influence.”

Through the arbitrary acts of the police, the person by whom the confidential letter of the Finance Minister was made public has been discovered. He is a Secretary of the Minister of War, to whom the letter was addressed, and will be prosecuted for a misdemeanour; but, as M. Von der Heydt has won a good share of popularity by its publication, the culprit will no doubt be lightly dealt with, perhaps indirectly rewarded.

RUSSIA AND POLAND.

Certain reforms, chiefly of a fiscal character, have been promulgated in Poland; but they are not such as are likely to satisfy the desires of the Poles, who look to political and not to financial changes as what they are entitled to expect from the Government.

A communication from St. Petersburg states that orders have been sent to Cronstadt to discontinue the fitting out of the Baltic experimental squadron. The Russian Government has decided on only maintaining this year the number of vessels necessary for the requirements of its naval stations. “This,” says the letter, “is an excellent measure to be taken at the moment when the progress made in artillery and naval constructions is about to produce such a modification in the maritime armaments of all countries.”

TURKEY AND MONTENEGRO.

The Porte has informed the Great Powers that, in consequence of the incessant hostilities carried on by the Montenegrins, it has sent orders to Omar Pacha to address an ultimatum to the Prince of Montenegro, calling on him for the immediate release of prisoners and a formal engagement to prevent invasion of the Turkish territories. The report that the Turkish troops had entered Montenegro is denied; but a later telegram announces that all the Great Powers, except France, have consented to the invasion of Montenegro, and that Omar Pacha has received orders to operate against it immediately from three points.

After entering Bagnani, Dervish Pacha dispatched a strong party conveying provisions to Miksich. Upon its return the escort was attacked by a number of Montenegrins and insurgents. The attack, however, was repulsed by the four battalions of Sami Pacha, after an obstinate fight and considerable loss on both sides.

The Montenegrins have released six hundred Albanian prisoners, but have retained the chiefs. Five thousand Bashibazouks are marching upon Vassevich and Albania. Dervish Pacha is in the neighbourhood of Miksich, which is blockaded by the insurgents.

GREECE.

Advices from Athens to the 4th inst. announce that Nauplia still holds out, and that two bands of Turkish Albanians had penetrated into Greece to support the insurgents. On March 30th, Fort Palamides, commanded by Grivas, opened fire upon the Royal troops. General Hahn notified the French Vice-Consul that if the firing was not stopped he should shell the town. The insurgents not taking heed of the notification, and having continued firing, killing and wounding three or four men, General Hahn gave the signal to bombard the town. His shells fell into the city, where great excitement prevailed.

General Hahn, the commander of the Royal troops before Nauplia, has dispatched a message to the Greek Government announcing that the garrison is breaking up, and that great numbers of insurgent officers and soldiers have already surrendered. When we remember that the Greek Government have again and again declared that the insurrection was confined to a few malcontents, we may well doubt the statement that “great numbers” of insurgents are now surrendering.

AMERICA.

There is nothing very definite or clear in the news from America, which comes down to the 4th inst. It is evident the New York journals know but very little of the military movements, or, if they do, they dare not publish it unless it be favourable to the Federals. All we hear of the proceedings in Virginia is that active skirmishing has commenced on the Rappahannock, and that the Confederates had occupied Big Bethel in force. In Georgia the Federals were pushing forward their operations against Savannah, and had invested Fort Pulaski, and its surrender was said to be hourly expected. It was garrisoned, however, by 500 Confederates, and Savannah was held by from 20,000 to 50,000 Confederates, and all the approaches to it were strongly fortified. Though General Burnside had got possession of Beaufort, Fort Macon was still retained by the Confederates. On the Mississippi the new line of defence of the Confederates is from Decatur, in Alabama, to Island No. 10 (which still held out), and was guarded by 200,000 men, under General Beauregard, and a great battle was imminent. The Senate has passed the bill for the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia by 29 against 14 votes. A compensation averaging 300 dols. for each slave is to be paid to the slaveowners. All the Border States members voted against the bill. 100,000 dols. are appropriated to aid the voluntary emigration of the slaves to Hayti and Liberia. The appropriation of 13,000,000 dols. for iron-clad vessels had been finally agreed to by the House of Representatives.

The Nashville, we now learn, was neither burned nor captured, but gallantly ran the blockading squadron at Beaufort. The New York press are furious at her escape.

The Merrimac had been repaired, and was making ready to attack the Monitor. Several new guns of heavier metal had been placed on board, and she was to be accompanied by the Jamestown and Yorktown.

The Confederates are burning portions of their cotton in Tennessee. It is reported that preparations have been made to burn Memphis in case of necessity.

THE IONIAN ISLANDS.

THE Ionian Parliament has replied to the speech of the Lord High Commissioner by an address, in which, after enumerating a variety of grievances under which it alleges that the islands are suffering, goes on to say:—

The Assembly of the twelfth Parliament proposes to fulfil its regular duties, and, as it has already begun, will examine into the questions referred to in your Excellency's speech. It intends to take into its early consideration other questions of real importance, but a long experience of the past discourages all desire, all effort to do so.

For these reasons the Assembly must in the first regular Session of the Twelfth Parliament repeat, that this people can have no hope of ameliorating its deplorable condition while divided from the already-liberated section of its nation, from that centre the absence of which in 1815 gave existence to the British Protectorate, and towards which, in whatever condition it may be, it will ever turn its gaze. Excellency, the unchangeable will of the Ionian people in favour of the political reunion of the Seven Islands with free Greece has been repeatedly and constantly declared. The unanimous declaration of the Ionian Assembly on Jan. 15, 1859, was officially transmitted to her Majesty the gracious Sovereign of England, in order that it might be communicated to the other European Powers. Therefore, the representatives of the Ionian people will employ all legal means to give effect to this unchangeable desire of the people in favour of its national restoration.

In reply to this part of the Address the Lord High Commissioner said:—

I cannot pass over in silence the allusion made in this address to the question of the union of these States to that section of the Greek race which constitutes the present kingdom of Greece. The Legislative Assembly declares that it will employ all legal means to give effect to this unchangeable desire of the people. The only legal and constitutional course to adopt, if, indeed, such a term can be applied to the proceeding, would be that of a petition to the protecting Sovereign. Such a petition was addressed by the Legislative Assembly of the eleventh Parliament to her Majesty the Queen, when a solemn and conclusive answer in the negative was given by her Majesty. To the declaration contained in that answer I refer you. In accepting the protectorate of the Ionian Islands England has undertaken duties and acquired rights. It only remains for me to intimate to you that, while she will discharge the first with scrupulous fidelity, she will maintain the last inviolate. It would be well, therefore, for the Legislative Assembly to apply itself to its true functions of useful legislation, and to abstain from the further agitation of a question which must be looked upon as having been settled by the sole authority which is competent to undertake it.

So it would appear that we are to likely to have a renewal of the storm which has been raging in the little Ionian teapot for some years past.

PRESERVATION OF HAMPSHIRE HEATH.—A public meeting, convened for the purpose of taking such steps as might be deemed most expedient for preserving Hampshire heath from building operations, was held on Monday evening in the Gaxton Institute, Hampshire. Mr. Donald Nicoll, J.P., of the Oakland Hall, occupied the chair, and the attendance was good. The chairman explained that the preservation of Hampshire heath as a national was the object of the meeting. To build upon that would be a national reproach. He wished it to be understood that he was not antagonistic to the rights of Sir Thomas Wilson. He would be glad if some arrangement could be arrived at by which the reasonable requirements of Sir Thomas Wilson would be satisfied, and the heath could be secured to the public. A lengthened discussion then ensued. Ultimately a resolution to the effect that, if Sir Thomas Wilson should apply to Parliament for an act enabling him to build on that portion of his estate which adjoined the Fitzhugh road, the meeting would not oppose such application, provided he gave a written promise that he would not encroach on the heath, was put and carried unanimously.

GARIBALDI'S TOUR.

GARIBALDI pursues his triumphal march throughout Northern Italy, and the enthusiasm his presence excites gives nowhere signs of abating. From Parma he travelled to Casal-Maggiore, on the Po, and thence visited Cremona; from Cremona he again crossed that river, and followed the line of the Milan Railway as far as Stradella, where he again crossed over to Pavia. From this latter city he will again appear at Milan, and thence proceed to Bergamo and Brescia, and probably to Desenzano, on the Lake of Garda, where he will be in front of the Austrians across the borders at Peschiera. Already the Austrian garrisons along the eastern shore of the lake have caught the alarm and are everywhere on the watch. The fever of excitement aroused by the hero wherever he shows himself exceeds description. He addressed a deputation of young men from the various educational institutions of Cremona in the following words:—"Youth should indulge no vices, for vice is the disease of the soul; youth should love instruction, because an uneducated man is no better than a monkey. He who acquires most knowledge rises nearest to his Maker, from whom his soul springs. Instruction should be grounded on solid moral education, and on this the social edifice should rest. Do you care for honour? Honour can only be acquired by virtue and instruction; nations, like individuals, when weak, are insulted and enslaved. Bear with other people's weaknesses; submit to no insults; love instruction; instruction is bread and independence; it availed me in foreign lands to place me above want. Love instruction; it was the want of it which prevented our joining together in a single family. Had Italy been better instructed she would long before this have known that her boundary was not the wall of a town or the hedge of a garden, but the high Alps and the broad sea; she would have swept from her all that defiles her." No wonder the municipal and scholastic authorities at Cremona decreed that these memorable words should be written in golden letters on the threshold of their gymnasium. As he took leave of the people of Cremona he thus concluded his farewell speech:—"I know you will never be at peace until this Italy, so fair and so long unhappy, shall be rid of the foreign dominion which soils it. No! we must not rise in the morning with the stain on our brow of having brethren who are yet slaves. Farewell!"

At Cremona Garibaldi was on the most friendly terms with the priests, who, with their good Bishop Novasconi at their head, have warmly espoused the national cause and declared against the temporal power of the Pope. To the Bishop, who was ill, and whom he visited at his palace, Garibaldi said, "I longed to see and know you, Monsignore, because I am aware that you are a true Bishop and a father to your people and your clergy. You are good and charitable, and have formed a clergy who edify me with their wise discourses, breathing a no less patriotic than energetic charity. Were all our clergy to follow your example, the redemption of our country would be an easy task."

Garibaldi next expressed a wish to go up to the top of the famous, high, mediæval, square tower of Cremona, and was made to cross the cathedral through a dense throng of people, who loudly cheered him as he passed. From the summit of the tower the General gazed long and silently at Mantua, and his brow was clouded and he sighed deeply. He then averted his gaze and begged the bystanders to point out Solferino, "the spy of Italy," Brescia, and other objects, to drive from his mind the painful thoughts raised by the sight of the hateful Austrian garrison. As he was leaving Cremona a priest, a Venetian exile, asked him, "When shall we go to Venice?" Garibaldi heaved a deep sigh and answered, "Oh, you're a thousand, and hundreds of thousands," quoth the priest; "Italy is all yours, as are all her hearts and all her strength." "No," replied Garibaldi, severely; "I beg you do not raise me so high. I have spoken some words at Parma which I regret to see have been ill reported in the newspapers. I spoke of the Italy of the ages of Dante and Machiavelli, and of our own age, which is the age of Victor Emmanuel. This part of my speech was omitted. I am sorry for it. We are all one with our King, and will all work with him to liberate and unite Italy."

In all other towns—at Casal Maggiore, Pavia, Stradella, and Crema—Garibaldi took the greatest care to set up the cry, "Italy and Victor Emmanuel!" and at all banquets proposed the health of the King, Prince Humbert, and the Royal family. At Pavia he was the guest of the Deputy Carli, who is one of the thousand of Marsala, and two of whose brothers were killed in fight under the General's eyes. He honoured the mother of these brave young men with true chivalrous courtesy, calling her the mother of martyrs and the model of Italian mothers.

It is still confidently asserted that the General will go to Naples and Sicily. A Turin journal states that it is definitively resolved by the Government to appoint the ex-Dictator General-in-Chief of the National Guard of the kingdom.

IRELAND.

THE ROBERTSON COURT-MARTIAL.—A military contemporary says that "The rumour gains ground that this now celebrated court-martial has terminated in an acquittal of the prisoner on all the charges, and it is also confidently asserted that the 'remarks' from headquarters will go considerably further. We understand that the cost of the inquiry to Captain Robertson was £762—a tolerably heavy premium for an innocent man to pay for the luxury of proving his innocence."

THE INCHQUIN PEERAGE CLAIM.—This case was finally heard before the Committee for Privileges in the House of Lords on Friday week, and decided in favour of the claimant, Sir Lucius O'Brien, Lord Inchiquin, and brother of Mr. Smith O'Brien. By this decision the ancient barony of Inchiquin is preserved—a barony given in 1543 by Henry VIII. to the princely Marquess O'Brien in exchange for the sovereign dominion which he held in Ireland. Sir Lucius O'Brien, the successful claimant, the direct descendant and representative of Marquess O'Brien, stands, as Lord Inchiquin, sixth on the roll of Irish Barons. In the course of the hearing of the case an important principle in the law of evidence in matters of pedigree was, after some discussion, established for the first time—viz., that the funeral entries of the Herald's Office in Ireland, since they are made there in the course of public duty, are receivable as proofs of family descent.

LEGAL EXPENDITURE IN IRELAND.—In the Civil Service Estimates for 1862-3 relating to the administration of the law, the total charge for England is set down at £291,572, for Scotland at £136,310, and for Ireland at £257,218. The estimate for Ireland is, therefore, more than seven times as great as that for Scotland, and is absolutely greater by more than £50,000 than the estimate for England and Wales, with nearly four times the population.

PACIFIC LOVERS.—At Drogheda, a few days ago, Kitty Maguire, aged fifteen, eloped with Willy Hooey, aged seventeen. They were captured and taken before the Mayor, who discharged them. The girl was then seized by her father and quietly carried away in his car. On leaving she handed her lover a sovereign. The vehicle moved off amid loud cheers from a large crowd; but it appears that the "stern parent" afterwards relented, and the young couple were to be married without delay.

MR. BERNARD SHEEHAN, T.C. OF CORK, AGAIN.—At the last meeting of the Cork Town Council, Mr. Bernard Sheehan produced a letter which he had received from Dublin, inclosing an extract from a newspaper stating that an influential deputation waited upon Mr. Frederick Peel to obtain £1000 for a park in Belfast. Mr. Sheehan said the people of Cork ought to endeavour to obtain a similar grant. An influential deputation ought to be sent from Cork as well as from Belfast. Mr. Julian said that Mr. Sheehan was an influential deputation himself (Laughter). Mr. Sheehan: Some people, really and truly, are very singular (Laughter). I move a committee wait on Mr. Peel. If we had recreation for the people, we would have people coming from all parts of Ireland, and the business people would earn money. Persons may think I am a jobber—(Laughter)—but I don't live near it at all, but I am for the people generally. Mr. Julian: That is the cause of your great influence (Laughter). Let Mr. Sheehan be a deputation: he is better known at the Treasury than any of us, I am sure. Mr. Hegarty proposed that Mr. Sheehan be appointed to wait on Mr. Peel. Mr. Julian: Leave it in Mr. Sheehan's hands. Mr. Sheehan: Well, but my dear man—Mr. Julian: I second the motion. Mr. Sheehan: My dear man, look 'a here now; if I go, I expect my expenses will be paid as well as other people's. After some further remarks, Mr. Julian said it was intended, not that Mr. Sheehan should go to London, but that he should write to Mr. Peel. The other members having concurred in this view, Mr. Sheehan said: But look 'a here now; you know I won't write to the "sir"; 'tis the other Peel's name! A Member: Lemon Peel (Laughter). Mr. Sheehan: 'Deed it is not Lemon Peel now. What way 'il I direct it? A Member: Mr. Frederick Peel, Esq. (Laughter). Mr. Sheehan: How do you spell Peel? In reply to this inquiry, Mr. Sheehan was answered, "Peel," and, as other members laughed and told him "Peel," and "Peel," and "Peel," he was in great perplexity, and declared that the members were "a most singular lot of fellows; after all their schooling not to know how to spell Peel."

SCOTLAND.

PAINFUL SCENE IN A COURT OF JUSTICE.—We stated in our last week's number that a woman named Timany was convicted at the Dumfries Circuit Court of the murder of Ann Hannay and sentenced to death. We since learn that a most distressing scene took place when the Judge (Lord Deas) was passing sentence. After referring to the circumstances of the crime, his Lordship said:—"It now only remains for me to pronounce upon you the last sentence of the law. The Prisoner (in an agitated tone): Oh, my Lord, it never was me!—Lord Deas: The time of all of us in this world is short. With the most of us it is uncertain. In your case your days are numbered. The Prisoner (in agony): No, Sir—Lord Deas: They must be few. The Prisoner: No—Lord Deas: And I would recommend you—The Prisoner:

No, my Lord.—Lord Deas: I would recommend you to prepare for other days. The Prisoner: No, my Lord; let the Lord stand for me.—Lord Deas: I recommend you to use the short time which you have still in the world in making peace with God. The Prisoner: No, my Lord.—Lord Deas: I should betray my duty, and hold out false hopes to you, if I gave you the slightest hope that the sentence of the law might not be literally carried into effect. The Prisoner: No, my Lord; give me for ever a prison. Dinna, dinna do that! His Lordship then put on the black cap, and concluded by formally passing sentence of execution on April 20. The prisoner became more pale and excited as his Lordship proceeded to discharge his painful duty; and, when he had concluded, she said, in the most heartrending tones, "Oh, my weans! My Lord, dinna dae that! Oh, dinna dae that! I'll no go out. Oh, my weans; oh, my weans! Dinna dae that!" Here the prisoner, with her eyes turned beseechingly towards his Lordship, was taken from the bar, led down the trap, crying, "My weans, my weans!" The scene was painful in the extreme, and affected many to tears.

PROFESSOR BLACKIE ON REPORTING.—"When Lord Eskgrove had got into his old days they began to establish this monstrous institution of reporting (Laughter), which is worse than the Spanish Inquisition (Renewed laughter). They cannot report my tone, humour, and sportiveness; and it looks all grave in the papers to-morrow, and people say, 'What a fool that Blackie is! how undignified! vulgar, very vulgar!' (Laughter). Well, what I was going to say was, that in the days of old Eskgrove they brought in this monstrous institution of reporting, which had never been heard of in the world before, and Lord Eskgrove said, 'The confounded fellow, he tak's doun the verra words that I say (Much laughter); every word he tak's doun' (Renewed laughter). I really feel that I suffer somewhat in that way, and I hope I will be spared on the present occasion, or that they (pointing to the reporters) will exercise a very great discretion" (Laughter).—Professor Blackie at Leith.

THE PROVINCES.

THE DISTRESS IN LANCASHIRE.—From the returns of the relieving officers for last week it appears that no less than £270 12s. 7d. had been spent in outdoor relief, being double the amount that was expended during the corresponding week last year. Besides parochial relief, the relief committee weekly distribute soup, bread, and meal to upwards of 7000 persons, or rather more than one in every six of the whole population. A report from Blackburn shows in a very lamentable degree the distress which prevails in that district. It is computed that a fourth of the inhabitants are suffering privations of a severe character, and there is little prospect of any permanent relief at present. Of the eighty-four mills in Blackburn only eighteen are working full time, twenty-five are running four and five days in the week, eighteen running three days, and twenty-three are altogether stopped. This is a melancholy picture, and it prepares one for the fact that 8974 persons were relieved last week by the guardians of Blackburn union. Last year, at the corresponding period, 2116 were relieved, a large number, but completely dwarfed by that of this year. The special relief fund is nearly expended, and a general appeal has been made on behalf of the distress in the Blackburn district.

COLLIERY NEGLECT.—A case of importance to colliery-owners was examined before the Oldham magistrates last week. The mining inspector of the district summoned the proprietors of the Woodside Colliery, near Oldham, for having the mine in an imperfectly ventilated condition. When the inspector visited the pit he found that a candle would not burn when it was held upright. The men were working with their candles depressed a little to one side, and they considered the mine safe, but the inspector startled them with the information that one per cent more of carbonic acid gas in the air would be destructive to life. As it was there was ten per cent of the noxious gas in the atmosphere, a fact shown by the candle not burning in an upright position. The proprietors were fined in the mitigated penalty of 20s. and costs.

FEARFUL ACCIDENT.—On Saturday last, after the Palmson cattle fair at Malton, the usual show of horses was held in the market, which was densely crowded, probably 2000 persons being present. A large number of horses of all classes were out, when a cry of "A horse loose!" caused a general panic, several persons being knocked down and injured in endeavouring to escape from a danger which few could see, but which several dull-sounding, heavy blows made generally plain enough. Various reports are in circulation; but the most reliable accounts state that a heavy cart-horse, Noble Prince, was very unmanageable, and, getting near a blood horse, Cariboo, kicked the groom on the head. The man fell as if dead, and away sprang his horse among the crowd, but was quickly recaptured by his owner, Mr. David Wray, of Scarborough. The scene of horses kicking, rearing, and plunging, and men flying and rolling one over another baffles description. Several persons were down and more or less injured; but the most serious cases are those struck by the horses, two of which are expected to terminate fatally. They are—Mr. John Hodgson, Hovingham, fracture of the skull and other injuries, since dead; Mr. John Weston, jun., Malton, ditto; Mr. John Richmond, cattle-dealer, Bishop Rulston, fearfully cut about the head and face; and Jim, the groom of Cariboo, similarly injured. The two latter may recover.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT FALMOUTH.—The town of Falmouth was the scene of a great conflagration on Saturday morning last, which resulted in the destruction of thirty houses, inhabited chiefly by the poorer classes, many of whom have been deprived of their furniture as well as their homes. The fire broke out in an old and narrow street, known as Ludgate-hill, and as the wind was blowing a pretty smart breeze from the harbour, the flames spread to the other side of the way, threatening to burn down all before them, and were only arrested at last by the firemen pulling down some of the houses, and thus leaving no materials for the fire to seize upon. Much distress has been produced among the poor burnt-out inhabitants in consequence.

THE HOUSE OF LORDS.—In the Upper Chamber of the British Legislature there is at the present moment to be seen a notable example of "the penny-wise-and-pound-foolish" system; the effect being to impair the magnificent appearance of this noble apartment. It has happened in this way:—The Peers of England, like the lively visitors of the minor theatres, exhibit a preference for the front benches, and the leather covering was consequently worn away, while the covering of the back benches, owing to their infrequent use, was preserved. During the last recess the used-up leather on the front benches was replaced by flaming scarlet; but the thrifty officials have left the dingy though unworn covering on the seats behind, thus imparting to their Lordships' House an appearance of shabby gentility. Many foreigners will doubtless visit the House during the summer, and they may indulge in conjectures respecting the distinction thus created. They may possibly imagine that the dingy benches are specially intended for noblemen of a gloomy mental organisation, who delight not in brilliant effects. They certainly can never suppose that this petty patchwork, by which perhaps a £50 note has been saved to the Treasury, is to be attributed to the triumph of economical principles in a country where the public expenditure exceeds seventy millions a year. The Board of Works should without loss of time invest a few score of pounds in scarlet leather, and put the House in proper trim for the reception of visitors. The association of gilded roof, painted glass, and carved panelling, with the ill-assorted benches, reminds one of a person who aims at cutting a figure in the world without sufficient pecuniary resources. Such an aspiring individual will under the circumstances do all he can; he will fling open his shabby coat to display a vest of an impressive pattern, and endeavour to conceal the defects of a bad hat by riveting attention on a showy necktie. But the Board of Works need not have recourse to expedients of such a kind, and, as the sin of prodigality has been committed to some purpose in the House of Peers, the effect should not be destroyed by this petty economy.—Star

THE UNIVERSITY BOAT-RACE.—This affair came off on the Thames on Saturday last. The Oxford men were much the heavier. The Oxford crew obtained the choice of position at the start, and took the inside place on the Middlesex side of Putney-bridge. At the first stroke they shot ahead, and before even the bathos was reached it was apparent that unless some powerful spurt were made by the Cambridge men their success was hopeless. At Hammersmith-bridge the Oxford boat led by at least half a dozen lengths, but immediately afterwards the Cambridge made a clever and powerful spurt, which considerably lessened the distance between them. The effort was, however, too late; Oxford recovered its ground, and continued to gain till they reached the winning-post, when they were twenty-six strokes, or forty seconds in advance of the Cambridge crew. The rowing of the Oxford men throughout the distance was wonderfully even and steady, while that of the Cambridge was irregular. The race was unusually slow, occupying twenty-five minutes and forty seconds. Complaints are made that the attending steamers greatly interfered with the rowing of the match by starting in advance of the boats, and causing a "swash," through which it was difficult to make way. The Cambridge crew especially suffered from this. Surely some means could be adopted to put a stop to this practice on the part of the steamers—a practice which, although complained of and condemned on all such occasions, is still persisted in.

DETERMINED SUICIDE.—On Monday an inquest was held on the body of a man named Rosenbott, who was found dead in his own house in Aldgate on Thursday last. It was a case of suicide so determined as to induce the belief that the man could not have done it himself. He had first struck his head several severe blows with a wood-chopper, and, failing in that way to destroy life, he cut his throat with a penknife. The surgeon said it was the most determined act of suicide he had ever heard of. No cause could be assigned for the deed but the illness of his wife. The jury returned a verdict of temporary insanity.

THE MEXICAN FORCES AND LOPEZ DE URAGA.

The first news of the European intervention in Mexico was sufficient to rouse the Government of that Republic to take some measures for their own defence; and in November of last year there were appointed three corps—the Army of the North, under the command of General Tapio, having their headquarters at Tampico; the reserve force, under General Jesus Ortega, stationed at San Luis Potosi; and the Army of the East, having for its chief General Lopez de Uruga.

This last commander, who is one of the most distinguished officers of the Republic, was long since regarded by the popular opinion as the only chief capable of organising a really practicable defence of the territory. The eastern force, occupying the route conducting from Vera Cruz to Mexico, was destined to receive the first shock of the conflict, and it was therefore necessary to place it under a leader able, energetic, and thoroughly devoted. It was at once determined that the necessary qualifications were eminently those of Uruga, and he soon gave ample proofs of his ability in organising the necessary resources to prepare for resistance. The General was a pupil of the military school of Chapultepec, and his indefatigable ardour in the study of the military art brought him under the notice of the President Santa Anna, who resolved to send him on a mission to Prussia, in order that he might study the system of arms practised by that power.

It is especially during the three last years of a sanguinary struggle that he has given indubitable proofs both of courage and of singular powers of military administration. From a mere untrained band casually supplied with arms he made a disciplined army, and by these means gave the victory to the Liberal party. At Loma Alta he defeated one of the most effective of Miramon's forces, making prisoners of all the chiefs, and by that first victory inaugurating the series of defeats which subdued the army of the ex-Dictator. After the affair of Loma Alta he marched upon Guadalajara, and at the siege of that city, at the head of his army, where he was conducting the assault upon the enemies' batteries, received a shot from a cannon on his left leg. The troops, seeing their chief wounded, lost confidence, and fell back, and Uruga fell into the hands of the enemy, who took the greatest care of him, in spite of which, however, the wound was so severe that amputation became necessary. Notwithstanding his age (sixty-one years) General Uruga has preserved all his youthful ardour. He passes the greater part of his time on horseback visiting his children—as he calls the soldiers—and the various military works, resting only, after a frugal meal, while he gives or receives orders and despatches, or occupies himself in arranging for the necessities of his troops. Beloved by the soldiers, whom he addresses in familiar style, wherever he goes he is saluted with the utmost enthusiasm.

The Mexican army is composed both of regular troops and of volunteer national guards, the recruiting of the regular army being effected by the *leva*, a name given to a commission instituted by the Governor of the State or by the chiefs of the corps. This commission, or board, is charged to take, either by force or persuasion, all the able-bodied men found upon the public highway, having at the same time orders to respect all the decent and well-dressed wayfarers, the *aguadores* or water-carriers, public guides, and foreigners, the common people being compelled to submit to this gross injustice without a murmur, since over them the commission has almost the power of life and death. The effect of this is, that during the periods of recruiting but few of the lower orders are seen in the public roads, and it is a practice amongst them to leave the doors of the houses open, so that on the first alarm of a recruiting party the humble wayfarer may run for a place of refuge. And indeed no pleasant prospect awaits the Mexican soldier. Torn from his wife and children (most of the people marrying young), he has but the melancholy prospect of being unable to support them out of his pay, and hopes only for some chance of deserting, even though he should run the risk of being retaken and flogged. It is truly wretched to see the poor women following their husbands to the camp and toiling under the burning sun with their whole stock of movables, until their arrival at the halting-place makes it necessary to kindle a fire and prepare the food.

The Mexican soldier often subsists on the most scanty rations, consisting of thin cakes made of bruised maize. On the march he frequently sustains himself by nibbling and sucking the sugar-cane, and yet he undergoes incredible fatigues, endures great privations, and is supported, even in danger, by very great enthusiasm. He would be an admirable soldier if he could only be placed under better chiefs than the ordinary Mexican officers, of whom the civil war has produced an immense supply, almost ignorant of the military art and totally incapable of leading or governing their men. Almost every Mexican is a National Guard, and when on campaign he is paid by the State, although he is compelled to pay for exemption from service. This National Guard is intended for the preservation of order and to assist the Supreme Government in executing the laws, but it may be mobilised by a vote of the Congress of the State of which it happens to form a part. The Mexican army, Regulars and National Guards, nearly numbers 150,000 men, of whom the eastern force numbers about 50,000.

The guerrillero, however, is the true Mexican soldier. Accustomed from childhood to mount his horse, he is usually a bold and fearless rider, and a troop of these cavalry, numbering from a hundred to five hundred men, would be sufficient to defeat an enormous body of infantry in a country like Mexico, which is both arid and mountainous. The horse, too, is trained to carry his master during a long day with but little food and a scanty supply of water—an evening meal of maize-cake and a draught from some stagnant pool being generally all he requires. The guerrillero, too, knows the almost impracticable roads, and manages to exist where few but himself could find any means of supporting life.

The latest intelligence from Mexico states that General Prim arrived at Orizaba on the 10th of March, where he intended encamping with his troops, according to the terms of the 3rd article of the Convention of Soledad. Vice-Admiral Jurien le La Graviere had left Orizaba on the morning of the 8th of March to continue on his way to Tehuacan. It was supposed that a meeting of the members of the Monarchical party would be held at Puebla towards the end of the month of April, and that the resolutions of that meeting would be submitted to the approbation of the Mexican people. A despatch received by way of New York says that a gunpowder explosion had occurred in the Spanish camp at Orizaba which sacrificed 1300 lives. The allied forces appear to be leaving Mexico as rapidly as possible.

THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW AT BRIGHTON.—The number of the volunteer battalions that propose to take part in the volunteer review at Brighton on Monday next has now been finally made up, from which it appears that there will be altogether eighty-three corps mustering on the ground, forming a force of 19,000 men. It is supposed, however, that many of the corps will appear in larger strength than the number set down for them; though, as others may be expected to fall short of their list, it is probable the actual strength of the corps under review will not greatly vary from the number given above. In anticipation of the review, there were great musters and many evolutions of many of the metropolitan corps in the parks on Saturday last.

THE FIRST CUPOLA-VESEL.—The tender of Messrs. Samuda Brothers, of the Isle of Dogs, for the construction of Captain Cole's cupola-vessel, having been found to be the lowest, it has been accepted by the Admiralty. Messrs. Samuda have bound themselves, under a penalty of £4000 (which will be rigidly enforced in the event of any *laches* on their part), to launch the ship on the 10th of February, 1863. The price at which the contract—viz., £44 15s. per ton—is taken is regarded as very low, and the gentlemen who have undertaken it will, if they succeed in complying with its terms, deserve great praise for their enterprise and energy. The ship, for which £180,000 has been taken in the Estimate, is to be 280ft. long, nearly 2600 tons, will draw about 20ft., and will have engines of 300-horse power. She will, according to present arrangements, have six masted, each armed with two 100-pounder Armstrong guns.



SOLDIER OF THE SARAGOSA DIVISION.



GENERAL LOPEZ DE URAGA, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE EASTERN ARMY OF MEXICO.



INFANTRY OFFICER.



GRENADEIER.



ONE OF THE BAND.



INFANTRY SOLDIER.

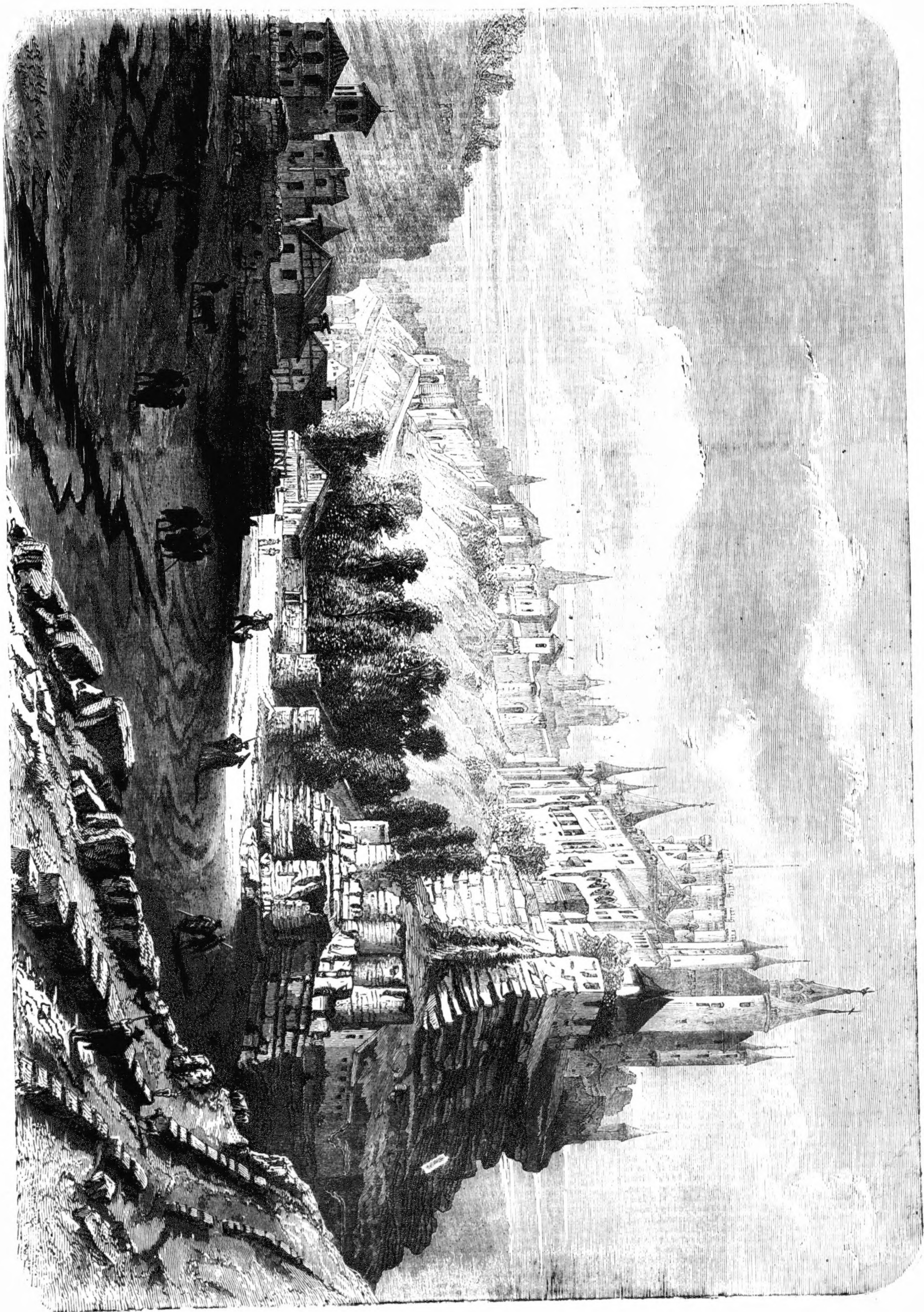
LIEUTENANT OF THE ZACATECOS CAVALRY BRIGADE.

GUERRILLA.

ARTILLERYMAN.

SOLDIERS OF THE BATTALION OF INDEPENDENCY.

THE PALACE OF SEGOVIA, SPAIN, RECENTLY DESTROYED BY FIRE.



DESTRUCTION OF THE CASTLE OF SEGOVIA.

RECENT news from Spain has announced an event which may well be deplored, both as a national calamity and a loss to the interests of all those who love the archaeological associations of history. The ancient Tower of Segovia, better known by the name of the Alcazar, has been almost totally destroyed by fire, the walls alone remaining to mark the site of what was one of the most magnificent buildings in Europe.

This venerable pile, built originally by the Goths, embellished by the Arabs, and afterwards elaborated in its interior decorations by the Sovereigns of Spain, contained within the great saloon, known as the Hall of Kings, a series of statues on painted wood, all of them life size, and representing the Monarchs of Oviedo, León, and Castile from Trueta, the first who reigned in 760 to Jeanne La Folle, who died in 1555. All these are represented in the costumes of the various periods in which they lived. Fernando Gonzalez and the Cid were also deemed worthy of a place in this Royal museum. The other apartments of the castle were rich in sculpture, gilding, and mosaics, while to these treasures were added several pictures by the great masters; among others "The Adoration of the Magi," by Bartolomeo Carducho; a library of 12,000 volumes, many of which were extremely rare, and a collection of valuable armour. Unhappily, none of these almost priceless relics could be preserved, since the flames spread with such frightful rapidity that, although vigorous measures were taken to arrest their ravages, every attempt proved useless.

The castle, which consisted of an immense square tower, whose interior divisions were varied according to the various periods at which it was decorated, has served for a long time as a State prison, and it is asserted that it was in the Alcazar that Le Sage, the author of "Gil Blas" was for some time confined. The last service to which the ancient building was appropriated previous to its destruction was that of the School of Artillery. The blackened and riven walls alone remain, and Segovia has now to boast only of its magnificent Roman aqueduct, which, 750 yards in length, and supported by 161 two-storied arches of immense height, until recently supplied, or may still supply, the town with water.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 182.

SOMNOLENCY.

We have seen strong men sent to sleep by the mesmeric pass. We ourselves in our boyhood have sent an old hen to sleep by merely tucking her head under her wing, and then swinging the old lady round our heads once or twice. We have heard of travellers sleeping on horseback and soldiers dozing as they marched. Lord Palmerston, we know, can sleep at will and wake at will. Nor have we forgotten the case of the fat boy in "Pickwick" who rang bells and slept before the doors were open—slept standing, and if he sat down for a moment was instantly in a dream. But, on the whole, we do not remember a more remarkable case of somnolency than the one which occurred in the House of Commons on Thursday night last week. The question before the House was the Courts of Justice Bill. To this bill a fierce opposition arose, and Mr. Selwyn moved that "it be read this day six months," and in due time the question was put, a division was called, and the numbers were a tie—81 for the Government and 81 against—when suddenly Mr. Brand, the Treasury Whip, announced to the Speaker that he had found a member in the lobby who had not voted—to wit, Mr. Wykeham Martin, the member for Rochester; whereupon the following colloquy ensued between Mr. Speaker and Mr. Martin, who stood winking and blinking, amidst roars of laughter, like an owl in daylight:—Mr. Speaker to Mr. Martin: "Were you in the House when the question was put?" Mr. Martin: "Yes, I was in the House, but I did not pass through the lobby." Mr. Speaker: "You were in the lobby?" Mr. Martin: "Yes, and intended to vote." Mr. Speaker: "Which side does the honourable member mean to vote?" Mr. Martin: "With the Ayes." And so the numbers were altered, and the Government had a majority of 1. But it is to the remarkable case of somnolency that we wish to call the attention of our readers. Mr. Martin, according to his own account, was in the House, heard the question, and passed into the lobby to be counted; but midway sleep arrested him—suddenly, in a moment—and so fast did Momus hold the honourable member in her paralysing grip that neither the tramping and babble of some fourscore members, nor several rough shakes which some of his friends gave him as they passed, could rouse him from his slumber. And there he would probably have lain till the House was up, or all night, if Mr. Brand, the whip, when he found that the numbers were equal, had not rushed into the lobby and dragged the honourable gentleman thence to the bar by main force. Now, when we remember that all this—the presence of Mr. Martin in the House, the walking into the lobby, the falling asleep, the waking up—must have occurred in the space of three minutes, we think that this must be considered a remarkable case, and that Dickens's sleepy fat boy is not an extravagant fiction.

CONFUSION CLEARED UP.

And now a word or two upon the division on this bill, for we find that there has been a good deal of misunderstanding thereon. The original question was, that "the bill be read a second time." Mr. Selwyn moved an amendment, "that the bill be read a second time this day six months." Mr. Speaker put the question thus:—"It has been moved that the bill be now read; since when an amendment has been moved to leave out the word 'now,' and to add 'this day six months.' The question that I have to put is that the word 'now' stand part of the question," and this question was carried by a majority of one, and, of course, the amendment was lost. But then the original question had to be put—to wit, "that the bill be now read," and, strange to say, on a division, this motion was lost by a majority of two. The numbers were 81 for, 83 against. How this happened we are not prepared exactly to say; probably, when the doors were opened, after the first division, a Government supporter went out and two more opponents of the bill rushed in. However, the motion was lost, "and the bill was lost," some of our readers will say, as not a few members said. But it was not so. All that was settled was that the bill be not now read a second time. It may, according to rule, be brought forward again, and the same process be again gone through; practically, however, we fancy the bill is gone, for we do not imagine that Mr. Cowper will tempt another defeat.

ITALIAN DEBATE.—SIR GEORGE BOWYER.

Sir George Bowyer, who led off the debate on Friday night, and discoursed for an hour and a half upon the wrongs of the Bourbon exile and the sorrows of the Pope, is not a lively speaker. Bred to the bar, he talks like a lawyer; not, however, like an impassioned advocate pleading a prisoner's cause, but in the dreary, colloquial, rippling style of the Court of Chancery and the bar of the House of Lords—a style as unfitted for the Senate as can well be conceived. Dull, dreary, monotonous, and prolix are Sir George's speeches. There is not the slightest sparkle of wit in them, nor the least appearance of humour. They are apparently not inspired by feeling, they are not emphasized by action, neither are they eloquent, in any sense of the word, but, on the contrary, broken, disjointed, and full of repetition. Nor is the matter of these speeches superior to the language and the manner. There are many men who cannot utter their thoughts coherently, who are nevertheless profound thinkers and able reasoners. Sir George Lewis is not an eloquent or an agreeable speaker, but no one will say that he cannot think clearly or reason well; but in Sir George Bowyer's speeches we discover few signs of thought and still fewer indications of reasoning power. And this is very remarkable, for Sir George Bowyer is reputed to be, and we believe is, a very learned man. Indeed, it would seem that he

must be so, for though Sir George was not educated at Oxford, the University there gave him, in 1839, the honorary degree of M.A., and in 1845 that of D.C.L. How is it, then, that his speeches are so poor? We cannot tell with certainty. Perhaps he has learning without the power of using it with effect; the faculty for collecting facts and remembering them, but not the art of employing them; a wondrous power of getting together material, but not the genius of an architect. Such men are and have been. We know. Dr. Parr was a ponderously-learned man; but he did little with his learning. But however this may be, Sir George's speeches are poor, dull, and ineffective; and that speech of his on Friday night was one of the dreariest of them all.

LAYARD.

And yet, poor as it was, we have to thank him for it, for it got up a debate which for eloquence and sustained interest has rarely been excelled. When Sir George sat down, Mr. Layard, Mr. Whalley, and half a dozen more members jumped to their feet to answer the learned Baronet. The House wanted to have Whalley, and shouts of "Whalley! Whalley!" echoed and re-echoed through the building; and no wonder, for, after such a dull performance as that with which the members had been bored, it was natural for them to wish for a farce. But Mr. Speaker called upon Mr. Layard, and Mr. Whalley had to sit down, bide his time, and meanwhile "pray and keep his powder dry," as Cromwell's Master of Horse, old Major Whalley, the member for Peterborough's ancestor, did in the Puritan days. Mr. Layard made a capital speech, at once eloquent, searching, and effective. He was, as usual, perhaps too hasty and impetuous; but even in this he has greatly improved since his advent to office, and on the present occasion he achieved a success which he never obtained before. The great fault of Mr. Layard at the commencement of his Parliamentary career was this: his facts were not always trustworthy; in his haste he occasionally made statements which he had to recall; but official drilling has corrected this fault, and, if he could but effectively restrain his impetuosity, his speeches would vastly gain not only in immediate but lasting effect. But, with all its faults, this speech of the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs was certainly a success; he carried the House with him; both sides cheered him heartily. Gladstone nodded approval, and Palmerston kept awake, and occasionally applauded.

A BATCH OF SPEECHES.

After the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs Mr. Scully arose, and then Mr. Baillie Cochrane, who was only remarkable as one of the two Englishmen who took the side of Sir George Bowyer. Mr. Grant Duff followed Mr. Cochrane with one of his carefully-prepared essays, the like of which, we fancy, we occasionally see in a notable weekly print; and then followed Mr. Monckton Milnes. The hon. member for Pomfret started a new hare. Hitherto the talk had been all about the Italian kingdom and the brigandage there; but Mr. Milnes discoursed upon the effect of this Italian question upon our politics at home, and pointedly asked the Catholics whether they were prepared to discover the ties which had so long connected many of them with the Liberal party, and forgetting all the benefits which they had received from the Liberals, rush madly into alliance with their ancient foes. This was to the point, and told upon the House. And then we had Mr. Whalley, long wanted, who gained a hearing at last, and was received with a shout of applause. Of course the House expected some fun on the appearance of Mr. Whalley; but on this occasion it was disappointed, for in truth Mr. Whalley, considering the stand-point which he occupied, made a sensible speech and uttered some forcible truths.

GLADSTONE.

And then rose Mr. Gladstone. But our space fails. In truth, however, there is but little necessity that we should describe the masterly oration which the Chancellor of the Exchequer delivered, as we cannot doubt that every Englishman has read it from beginning to end. If any one has not, all we can say is that he has neglected a duty and done himself injustice, for this speech was so brave, so manly, so purely English, and, at the same time so eloquent, impassioned, and conclusive, that not to read it amounts to almost a crime. As to the House, nothing has been heard in modern times more effective there. From beginning to end all the hearers of that wonderful speech were held as by the wand of an enchanter, and occasionally the cheering was so general on both sides of the House that for once there seemed to be entire unanimity. Sir George Bowyer, of course, was an exception, but even he was excited. Indeed, it was observed that the hon. Baronet was much more moved by Gladstone's speech than he was by all the fancied cruel wrongs that he himself had to narrate. And then let it be remembered that this speech of Mr. Gladstone was all improvised on the spot; for it was an answer in detail to Sir George Bowyer's, and could not have been prepared beforehand. The strangers in the gallery, and there were many, had a rare treat that night; and all the more a treat because this speech of Mr. Gladstone's was unexpected. Amongst these strangers there were several distinguished men. The Marquis d'Azeglio, the Minister Plenipotentiary of Italy, was in the Ambassadors' Gallery; and Signor Saffi, one of the notable triumviri of Rome, was in the Peers' seats. One Peer—to wit, Lord Feilden—sat out the debate.

THE FINISH.

When Mr. Gladstone sat down the debate ought to have finished, for "what can a man do who cometh after the King?" But there was still a host of members who wanted to speak. The House, however, was jaded and tired; and neither the admirable speech of Mr. Stansfeld, nor the outspoken declarations of Lord Palmerston, which long before this have gone forth to the ends of the earth, disturbing dreamy diplomatists and perplexing Monarchs with the fear of change, could rouse the members to enthusiasm again. Mr. Locke's short and pointed address was, however, an exception. Was the member for Southwark inspired that night that he evoked such a tempest of laughter and applause? No; there was no miraculous inspiration. He simply caught the right idea. For several hours there had been questionings in the lobby as to what Disraeli would do; and when Mr. Locke, in his blunt way, called upon the Conservative leaders to announce their policy, every one felt that he had spoken *ad rem*—done the thing which all wanted to be done, but which no one but Mr. Locke had the courage to do.

DEMONSTRATION IN CALCUTTA IN HONOUR OF LORD CANNING.—A public meeting which has been held in Calcutta in honour of Lord Canning was one of the most remarkable demonstrations ever made in India. It was a spontaneous manifestation of native feeling, and all the races of the peninsula were largely represented on the occasion. The public services rendered by Lord Canning as Viceroy of India were ably sketched by the Baboo Ramprasad Roy. In connection with the routines the orator passed a just eulogium on Lord Canning's moderation and humanity, which, it may be remembered, earned for him the now honourable sobriquet of "Clemency Canning." The Rajah Dinkar Rao referred with pardonable pride to his own appointment to the Supreme Council as a proof of the beneficence of Lord Canning's policy. Rarely has a Governor-General, on retiring from office, received such warm and earnest expressions of the good feeling and regard of the natives of India.

THE ITALIANS AND THE MARQUIS OF NORMANBY.—The inhabitants of Altamura, province of Terra di Bari, Italy, have, through their municipal body, forwarded to Sir James Hudson an address protesting warmly against some extravagant assertions lately made in the House of Lords by the Marquis of Normanby. The Marquis appears to have stated, as a proof of the prevalence of Bourbonian sympathies in Southern Italy, that Altamura was actually occupied by 1000 brigands or Bourbonians, without any opposition on the part of the National Guard or the inhabitants. The protest, which is signed by the Syndic and all the councillors and assessors, declares that, so far from the town being possessed or even attacked by brigands or Bourbonians, no Bourbonian band ever ventured to await a single encounter with the National Guard, but invariably scamped, in true Bourbonian style, whenever the latter made their appearance.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, APRIL 11.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Lord GRANVILLE briefly stated the substance of the alterations proposed to be made in the revised code of education, a copy of which, as announced, his Lordship laid upon the table.

THE FORTIFICATIONS AT SPITHEAD.

In reply to a question from Lord Vivian, Earl DE GREY and RIFON said that the works of the fortifications at Spithead had been suspended for the present, and that the whole question would be referred back to the Defence Commissioners, with whom would be associated one or two eminent men of science. Liabilities of considerable magnitude had already been incurred in respect of those fortifications, and very little of the two millions voted by Parliament would be available for the construction of iron ships. He did not consider it advisable to proceed too hastily in condemning permanent defences, as it was probable that artillery would in the end prove to be superior to any means of resistance which could be offered to it in the way of armour.

The Duke of CAMBRIDGE corroborated the observations of the noble Earl who spoke last, and added that Sir W. Armstrong had informed him that he was sanguine of his ability to construct a gun to throw a ball of 600lb., which would produce a similar effect at a range of 2200 yards to that of a 300lb. shot at 200 yards. His Royal Highness urged that the Government ought to proceed slowly but persistently, for if we were to stop we would soon be distanced by other nations.

The Earl of ELLENBOROUGH thought the Government were right in proceeding with caution, but expressed a hope that they would not move too tardily. He considered that it was absolutely necessary, cost what it might, to place the country in a position of maritime defence superior to that of any other nation in the world.

The Duke of SOMERSET defended the policy of the Admiralty, and observed that if they were to give way to every popular panic and impulse they would incur an expenditure which in the end might prove useless. He reminded their Lordships that iron ships to the number of fifteen had been laid down before one had been tried. The Admiralty were now, however, prepared to proceed with floating-batteries on the plan of Captain Coles and others.

The subject then dropped.

The bills on the table were forwarded a stage, and their Lordships adjourned until Tuesday, the 29th inst.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE STATE OF ITALY.

Sir G. BOWYER called attention to the affairs of Italy. After a criticism, rather in the tone of an invective, of an answer given to him by Lord Palmerston, on a former occasion, and animadverting upon certain cases of alleged oppression and cruelty sanctioned by the "Piedmontese" Government, he described the present state of things—want of security for life and property, martial law, and military executions. He complained that the course pursued by Her Majesty's Government in relation to the atrocious proclamations issued by officers in the service of Victor Emmanuel—which showed, he observed, that the country could not be governed by fair means—had been disingenuous, that their replies to inquiries were not consistent with the facts. He insisted that the people of Italy never could be reconciled to the Piedmontese, who were not Italians, and did not speak their language, and that the British Government were, to a certain extent, responsible for what had taken place in Southern Italy, which had been the result of their policy, and of their gross violation of the principle of non-intervention. No satisfactory results had, however, followed our policy. We had set up France as the dominant Power in Italy, broken the power of Austria, and made King Victor Emmanuel a French Viceroy; the kingdom of the Two Sicilies still existed, while that of Italy had only been organised by France and England; but we had not secured what was called the "unity of Italy," nor had we made Rome the capital of Italy. Rome, he asserted, never would be the capital of Italy.

Mr. LAYARD, in replying to the hon. and learned Baronet, said he had referred to certain alleged cruelties (which he had not proved) in the Neapolitan provinces; but he had not referred to the state of affairs in the Marches, Umbria, and the Legations, where the Pope had not a single partisan. There were no Piedmontese troops there, and if the people wished to return to their former allegiance there was nothing to prevent them. With regard to Rome the question was not whether King Victor Emmanuel wanted it, but whether the Romans wanted him. The way to decide this would be to withdraw the foreign troops and leave the people to choose their own rulers. The hon. gentleman then read a letter from a Mr. Waddington, an English gentleman residing at Perugia, giving a most satisfactory account of the moral progress which had been made in that city since the expulsion of the Papal authorities. If atrocities had been committed in the Neapolitan provinces, or if proclamations such as those referred to had been issued, Her Majesty's Government did not approve of them; and, as for the rising of the brigands or reactionists, it could not be said that they were of Italian origin, as no landowner or person of the slightest respectability had joined them. The reactionary bands had come from the Roman frontiers, were almost entirely composed of foreigners, and had never made any organised attempt to restore the Bourbon dynasty. In the Neapolitan provinces the machinery of free institutions and constitutional government had been introduced, and the country was making rapid strides in social improvement, commercial prosperity, and political independence.

Mr. HENNESSY, Mr. SLANEY, Mr. COCHRANE, Mr. MONCKTON MILNES, and Mr. WHALLEY having spoken, The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER expressed his surprise at the marvellous credulity and strange paradoxes exhibited in the speech of Sir G. Bowyer, and at his simplicity in expecting the House to manifest the same degree of credulity. He commented upon the extraordinary doctrines and views of Sir G. Bowyer, who, he said, regarded the improvements in the laws, the free institutions, and the social ameliorations introduced into the kingdom of Italy, which others considered demonstrations of freedom, as nothing. The revolution took place but two years ago, and what had been the result in that short period? As regarded two-thirds of the Italian kingdom, Sir George had practically renounced and abandoned the case; and as to the other third, Mr. Layard had shown that things were improving, and the lucid details he had given disproved the allegations of Sir G. Bowyer. The hon. and learned Baronet had, he said, argued as if the population of the Papal States and the kingdom of the Two Sicilies had been formerly attached to the most admirable and paternal Government in the world. If this were so, how was it that when an adventurer in a red shirt, called Garibaldi, accompanied by a handful of adherents, landed in the Sicilian part of the peninsula, a King with 80,000 armed men and a powerful fleet "melted away like snow before the sun"? Sir George Bowyer had declared or predicted that the Italians would never have the city of Rome for their capital. He (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) did not believe in that prediction. Sir George required the House to believe that the people of Rome were perfectly satisfied; but there were some 20,000 French troops kept there for some purpose which Sir G. Bowyer had not explained. Speaking as an individual, he could not but regret, he said, the continuance of that occupation; and he most earnestly hoped, for the sake of the name and fame of France, for the sake of humanity and the peace of Europe, it might soon be done away. With respect to the temporal Government of the Papacy—one of the questions involved in the discussion—Mr. Gladstone, in a powerful argument, urged the impolicy, as well as the injustice, of prolonging it.

Mr. LOCKE inquired how it was that the leader of the Opposition had taken no part in the debate?

Mr. FRASER considered that the principle of centralisation had failed in Italy, but if that of federation was adopted Italy might still be strong and united.

Mr. STANSFELD observed that if non-intervention meant indifference, or even neutrality, it would be a negation of all policy. Sir G. Bowyer had drawn a dark picture of the condition of Italy; but he was the advocate in that House of a foreign temporal Power which was the cause of all the evils he affected to deplore.

Mr. MAGUIRE denounced the Whigs as the hereditary enemies of the liberties of their Catholic countrymen, and charged the Government with adopting a policy in reference to Rome and Naples, because they were weak, which they dared not pursue towards Russia or America, which were strong. He emphatically deprecated the career of King Victor Emmanuel, as stained by unparalleled infamy and gigantic piracy.

Lord PALMERSTON said he thought when Mr. Maguire read the words he had spoken that night he would regret some of the expressions. He complimented Sir G. Bowyer upon this new proof of his fidelity to his Church and of his zeal for a failing cause, though he had not done that cause much good by the manner in which he had brought the subject before the House. He believed, in opposition to Mr. Maguire's prophecy, that it was impossible the temporal power of the Pope could last. Every day the people of Italy were thereby alienated more and more from his spiritual authority, so that it was the interest of the Pope to divest himself of his temporal power, which others so much abused. No doubt the question was in the hands of the Emperor of the French, and that it depended entirely upon the presence of a French garrison at Rome, which was a violation of the principle of non-intervention recognised by France as well as by England and a departure from the object of making Italy free. As to the conduct of the Government, all he could say was that their course had met with the approval of the people of this country, of whose generous feelings in favour of a nation struggling for political freedom they had been the faithful organ. This subject then dropped, and, after the transaction of some other business, the House adjourned to the 28th inst.

CAPTAIN COLES'S CUPOLA-SHIPS.

It is the ordinary fate of great inventors to have their projects pool-pooled and neglected till some emergency arises which makes the applicability and value of their ideas apparent; and then, in spite of prejudice, official or otherwise, public opinion, at least in England, generally compels a trial to be made of plans and inventions which, but for such emergency, would have remained unappreciated, and, it may be, even sneered out of remembrance. Captain Coles is no exception to the usual rule. He had long pressed upon the Admiralty officials the importance of his inventions for iron-ship building, but had never succeeded in getting any step taken for putting his plans to practical use until the recent combat between the Monitor and Merrimac in the James River attracted special attention to the matter; and now the gallant officer has the satisfaction of at last being allowed a trial, though whether his plans will be carried out to the extent that he desires, and which is desirable, or he himself adequately recompensed for the public service he has rendered, may be doubtful. The difficulty of making Governments grateful is proverbial, and lack of conscience is probably as characteristic of Admiralty Boards as of other corporate bodies. It will, however, rest with the public themselves to make sure that such a pressure shall be brought to bear, through Parliament and the press, as to force upon official routine an effective trial of Captain Coles's inventions, and, if they should ultimately be found to have the value he claims for them, to see that he is treated with at least as much liberality as our other great warlike inventor, Sir William Armstrong, has been; and that, while the public enjoy the advantages of his inventions, which have cost him years of labour, the inventor himself shall be robbed neither of the honour nor of the profit which may be legitimately due to him. With the view of impressing the public mind with the importance and character of Captain Coles's plans, we this week devote a considerable portion of our space to representations of some at least of the forms in which the gallant officer's inventions may be developed.

That the old style of war-ship is now completely obsolete seems to be admitted on all hands. The "wooden walls" which won her naval supremacy for England are things of the past; and it behoves us, at whatever cost, to find out the best means of replacing the superseded navy with one that will be effectual in maintaining for us that position in the maritime world which we have long enjoyed, and which is essential to our position in the front rank of nations. Whether or not the late fight in the American waters establishes all that was at first claimed for it, one thing is certainly proved by it—namely, that wooden ships of the old construction, with their guns mounted in tiers one above another, are perfectly useless against a steam-ram like the Merrimac, and harmless when antagonising an iron-clad raft like the Monitor. Captain Coles would do away with all these, and, by vertical roofs of armour-plates and heavy guns mounted in a cupola, give us floating defences which would be at once thoroughly manageable, impervious to shot, movable with ease, and seaworthy. Nor would they be so monstrous and unsightly to a nautical eye as the inventions of our American cousins. They would be fitted with masts and yards, having the one peculiarity of being made of one uniform size, so that ships of all classes abroad could be furnished at depôts, in case of an accident, or ships meeting each other could exchange with or supply their comrades. When the best form of cupola shall have been determined on, which is not yet done,

it is proposed that they also shall be constructed with the same view, so that the dockyards abroad, having a certain number of plates and rivets in store, can at any time after an action refit the ship.

One form of Captain Coles's cupola has already been used on board the Trusty and Hazard with success; but Captain Coles's invention embraces four forms, each differing with each, and each possessing certain points of excellence which the other wants. The first form is that of a cone; the second is in shape cylindrical; the third is also cylindrical, with a cone on the top; and the fourth is shaped somewhat like a slipper, from the front part of which the guns will protrude. When we remember that Captain Ericsson's cupola is 9ft. in height, and those proposed by our own inventor only 14ft., the greater practical safety of the latter must be at once seen, as the points of possible percussion are decreased more than one-half. The present cupola weighs 75 tons, including the guns; the armour-plating 25 tons only, and is formed of 4½ in. plates; therefore, to double the thickness and make the plate 9 in., and the cupola perfectly shotproof, would be merely to double the 25 tons weight, and thus render the ships fitted in this manner practically invulnerable. No horizontal fire can strike a vessel altered on Captain Coles's plan above the water-line except at an angle of 40 deg.; it is thus completely protected against vertical fire by its arched roof. But, turning his attention to local defences, the inventor proposes to render his vessels capable of being submerged in the heat of action, so that any kind of

explosive projectile, or "new fire," such as the Americans boast of having invented, would be extinguished and rendered harmless. When mobility became again necessary the vessel could be lightened by pumping and again emerge from the sea to pursue its antagonist. The superiority which such vessels as these would have over any seagoing craft (if regarded merely as coast defences) must be evident to all. No ships or transports which could cross the ocean to attack us could have a moment's chance against them. Captain Coles proposes to place a few of these in each seaport during peace; and duplicates of them could be, with our enormous powers of construction, easily furnished. These could be enlarged to any amount and manned by our Naval Reserve, and would form points-d'appui for our volunteer forces on the seacoast. Each corps having a specific vessel to call its own and to fight in, a friendly rivalry as to superior quickness and management would ensue, and the whole coast population be thus utilised for defence. With such means of resistance at our command, we need be under no apprehension of invasion from any quarter whatever.

But, in the meantime, we must conclude, with Captain Coles, "that in future fleets must fight in armour, and supremacy afloat must depend on superior ability to produce the ships required. The first outlay will be enormous; but it will be inevitable. Three-deckers and stationary guns in stone forts are obsolete. The most economical ship will be that which is the most invulnerable and the most durable."

The sentence we have put within inverted commas formed the concluding one of a lecture explanatory of Captain Coles's invention, delivered by him in June, 1860, and subsequent events have amply justified the principles there laid down. While Captain Coles maintains that our best defence will undoubtedly be found in such vessels as he proposes to construct, a great merit of his invention is that his shields are equally applicable to forts as to ships; and, should we persist in deeming stationary fortifications desirable, such fortifications will be rendered all the more efficient by being furnished with shotproof shields, under which the guns may be worked.

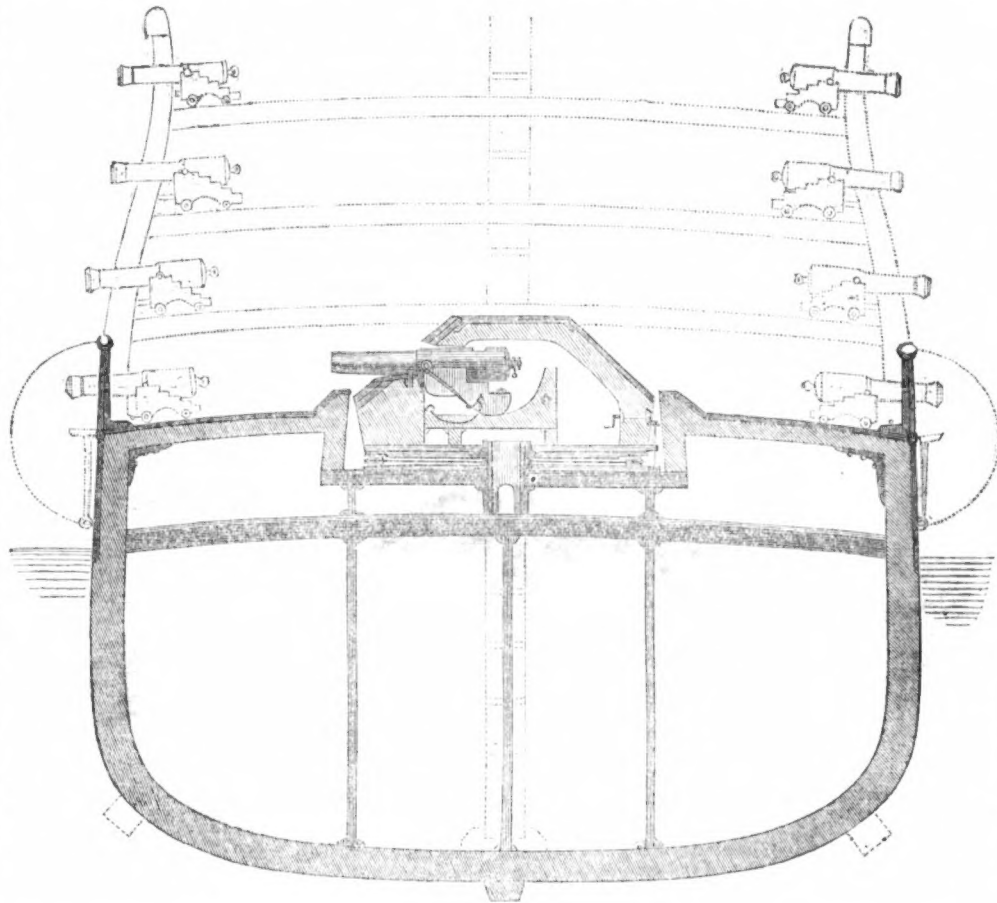
Our illustrations, we think, will be sufficiently intelligible, especially when accompanied by the following remarks from the pen of Captain Coles himself, with which he has kindly favoured us:—

RIGGING OF COLES'S CUPOLA-SHIPS.

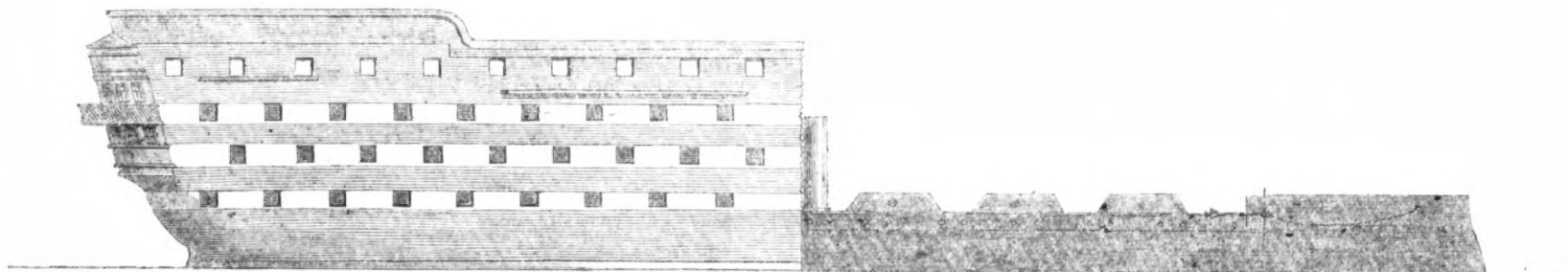
Since giving the lecture on this subject in June, 1860, much has come to pass, and I am pleased to be able to say that all my statements have been proved, and more especially the last paragraph. As various reports have been made relative to my vessels being seagoing, I will shortly describe their rig—1. The mast I propose to be of iron, peculiarly constructed, requiring very little rigging; indeed, only one large lower shroud of a side, and one topmast backstay; the masts are all in one, on the polea principle, with a Cunningham top-sails. The masts and yards for the three classes of seagoing ships are all the same size—lower yards being 70ft., topsail yards 60ft., enabling ships to supply each other on foreign stations with a spare yard. In rigging these vessels it has been my study to give the greatest amount of canvas with the least area of masts and yards when steaming head to wind. The manner in which our line-of-battle ships and frigates are now rigged retards them greatly, if not paralysing their movements altogether when sailing under steam in boisterous weather.

VENTILATION AND ACCOMMODATION.

The section of a three-decker cut down



SECTIONAL VIEW OF A THREE DECKED VESSEL, SHOWING HOW IT MAY BE CONVERTED INTO A CUPOLA-SHIELD SHIP.



SIDE VIEW OF THE SAME, SHOWING THE COMPARATIVE SIZE OF A THREE DECKER AND A CUPOLA SHIP AS A MARK FOR AN ENEMY.

shows the space on the lower deck of each side of the shield—viz., 16ft. each side; this is a clear space fore and aft, allowing the half of the ship before the engines for the men's messes, and abaft for the officers' cabins. This is the plan I originally sent in to the Admiralty in 1859, but later I devised a double or cellular side, as shown in lecture at the United Service Institution in 1860. The ventilation of this ship is the same as any other flush-deck vessel—by means of hatchways, with the addition of each cupola acting as a gigantic ventilator, the top of the cupola having an opening of 9ft. diameter protected by bars, and the sides open to the lower deck, admitting on all occasions a clear current of air besides the one through the hollow pivot. Doubt has been expressed as to inconvenience from concussion or smoke. The one on board the Hazard at Portsmouth, with two 110-pounders, was covered over and around the openings with a tarpauling, both guns were fired simultaneously, with the usual crew of seven men to each gun and six lookers on inside, when not the slightest inconvenience was experienced from smoke or concussion. The conversion of heavy frigates and line-of-battle ships, constructed on the old model, into iron-plated vessels, fitted with my shield, could be effected at a comparatively small cost.

old gun saying they would not be beaten by this new machine, and the men at the new machine saying they would take the shine out of the old one. The result was that the cupola-gun, with seven men, beat the ordinary gun with twelve men, at the rate of three rounds to two. One hundred and six rounds were fired, and, as the Duke of Somerset said in his speech in the House of Lords, the twelve men were fairly beaten, and gave in.

INVULNERABILITY.

The cupola was then fired at by a 40-pounder, a 110-pounder, and a 68-pounder, at from 150 to 200 yards distance, in a gun-boat. The water was perfectly smooth, but so small was the portion of the cupola visible above the deck that out of sixty-nine shots only forty-six hit, showing how utterly impossible in the heat and smoke of action it would be to make anything like good practice at it. The shield was unhurt with the exception of one plate, which was pronounced to be indifferent iron, and, after going through this severe test, was fired from with the same rapidity and precision as before, thus speaking for itself. The practice from the shield was as remarkable for precision as quickness, and such superiority had it over the other gun in training that on one occasion seven rounds of

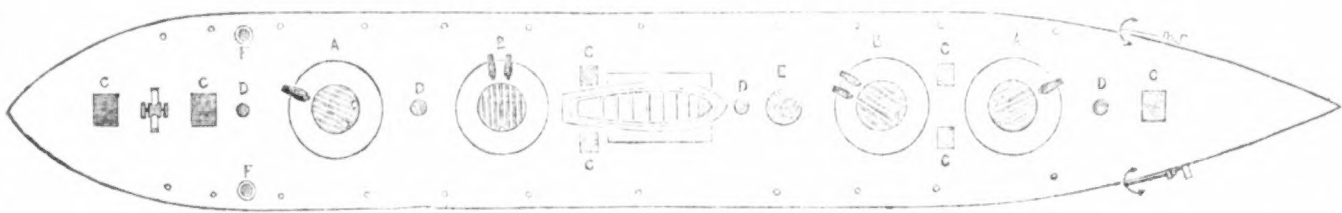
blank cartridge were fired at a gun-boat passing at full speed when the other gun could only get one shot.

CAPACITY FOR CARRYING HEAVY ORDNANCE.

As Sir Wm. Armstrong truly says in his letter to the *Times*, this cupola solves the problem of working the heaviest guns; indeed, it gives unlimited power of applying mechanical means and engineering skill to the working of the gun, which is under such perfect control that it could be fired easily when it would be impossible to do so with a gun fitted in an ordinary port. Indeed, I believe there is no limit, and I hope soon to have an opportunity of proving that I can work the 150-pounder gun of 12 tons as easily as we now work the two 110-pounders, in one shield. This shield weighs, with guns complete, 75 tons; but I believe the size of gun, as far as working it, to be unlimited. It is merely a matter of fewer and larger guns and shields; when it is evident, from the results at Shoeburyness with the 150-pounder on the Warrior's sides, that a ship carrying one of these shields and guns would take her.

SUITABILITY FOR COAST DEFENCE.

For coast defence small vessels, armed with one cupola, and the power of immersion, from their smallness, lowness, rapid turning, and invulnerability, would be vastly superior to any seagoing ship that might attempt to approach our harbours, giving a great superiority to the defensive force of local vessels. In time of peace a few of these could be kept in all our principal ports as models, giving our



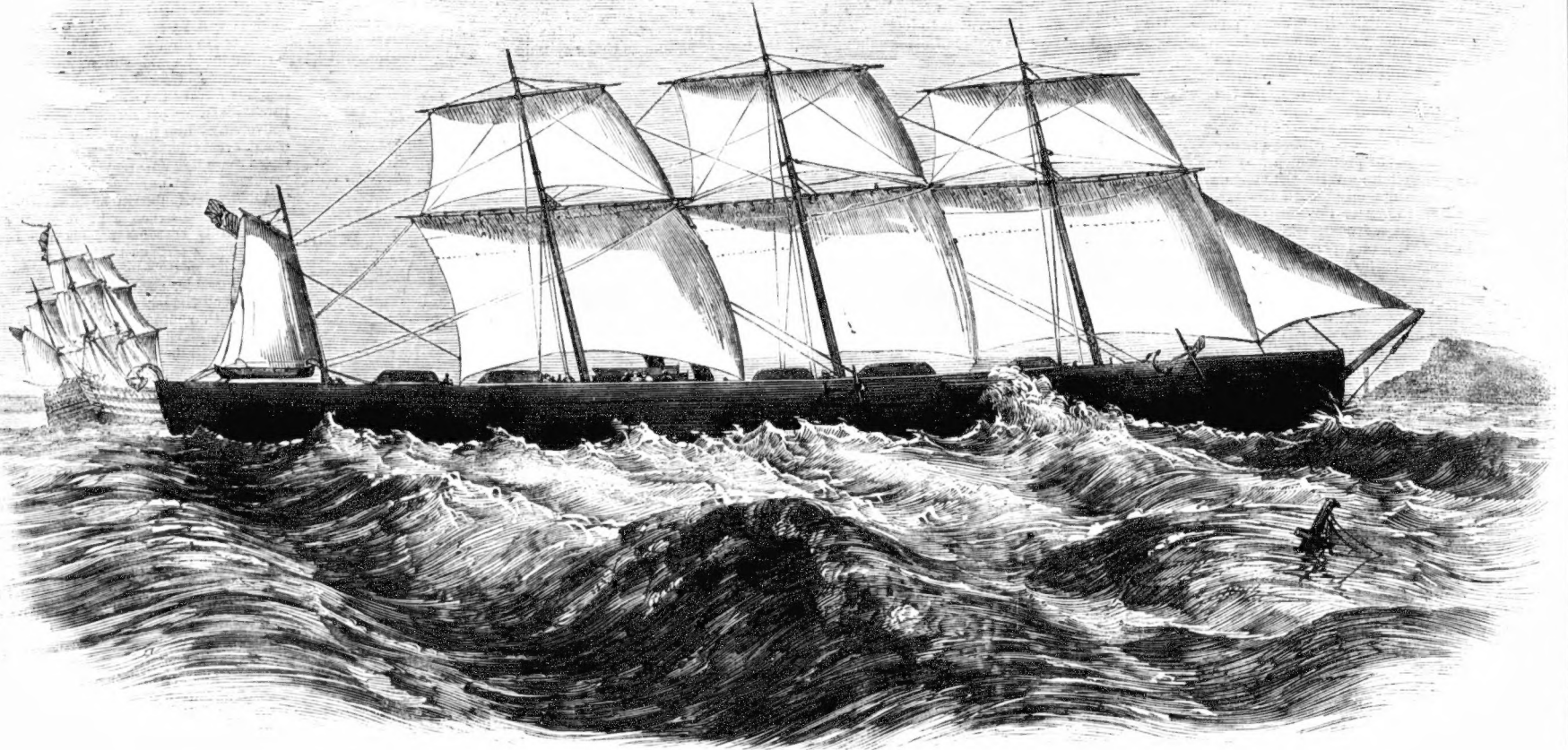
PLAN OF DECK OF CUPOLA-SHIELD FRIGATE.

(A A) Cupola 150-pounders. (B B) Cupola 110-pounders. (C C C C C) Hatchways. (D D D D) Masts. (E) Funnel. (F F) Pilot-houses.

RAPIDITY OF FIRE.

The shield tried on board the Trusty last September was worked against another gun of the same calibre, mounted on an ordinary carriage, in a fort—the cupola-gun, having a crew of seven men and the other a crew of twelve. Great rivalry and emulation ensued between the Jacks, those at the

C A P T A I N C O L E S ' S C U P O L A - S H I P S .



LINE-OF-BATTLE CUPOLA-SHIELD SHIP FOR FOREIGN SERVICE UNDER SAIL.

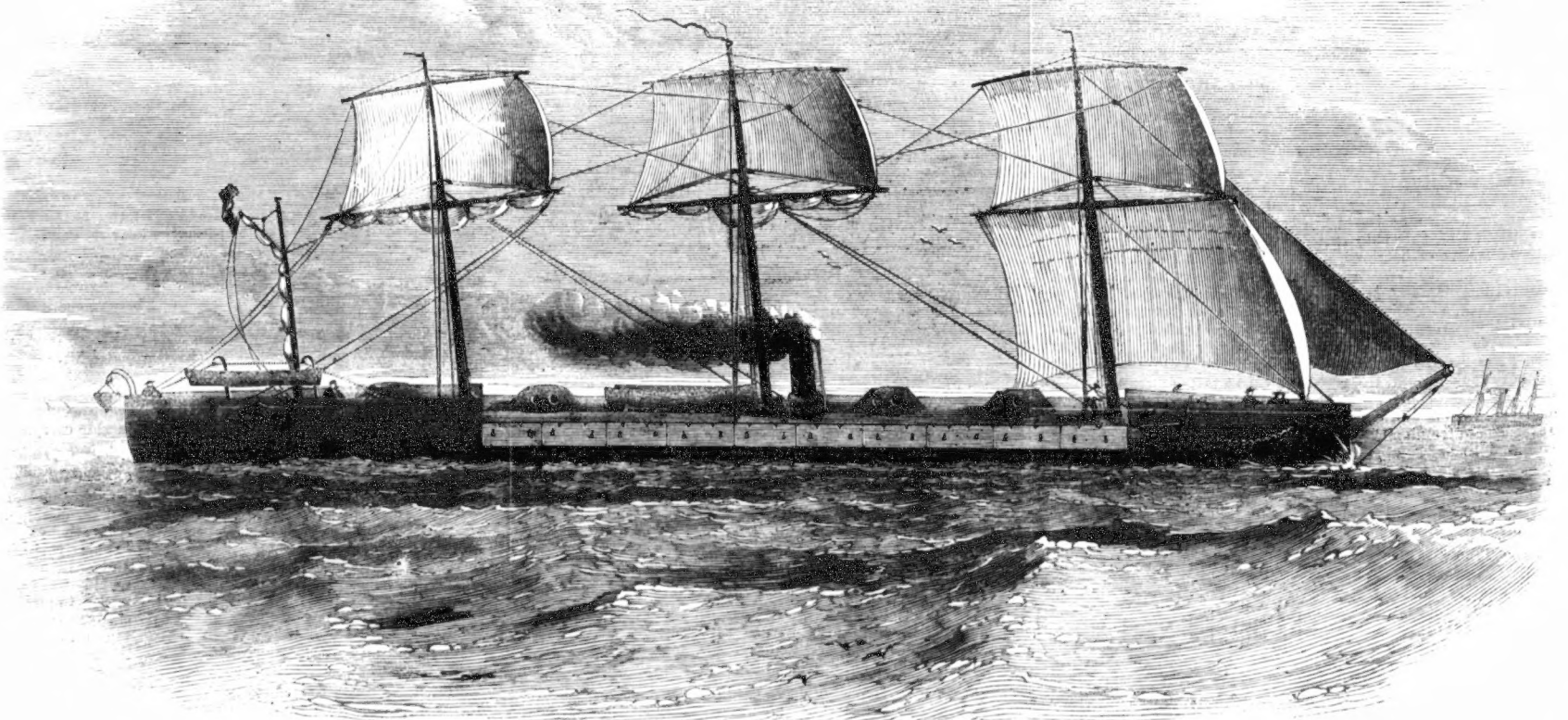
Length, 300 feet. Beam, 49 feet. Draught of water, 23 feet. Canvas, 20,000 square feet. 1000-horse power. Armament, five 150-pounders.

coast volunteers a specific vessel to fight in and defend their own homes and shores in case of war, when, with our powers of construction, our coasts could soon swarm with them; thus giving an incentive to voluntary service and a healthy emulation for defending our coast by our seaboard population.

These vessels may be compared to so many watchdogs ready to pounce on and grapple with a foe should he attempt to approach our shores; and would certainly give a good account of any vessels which might have the temerity to make a trial of their efficiency.

One of the great features in this invention is the weight being

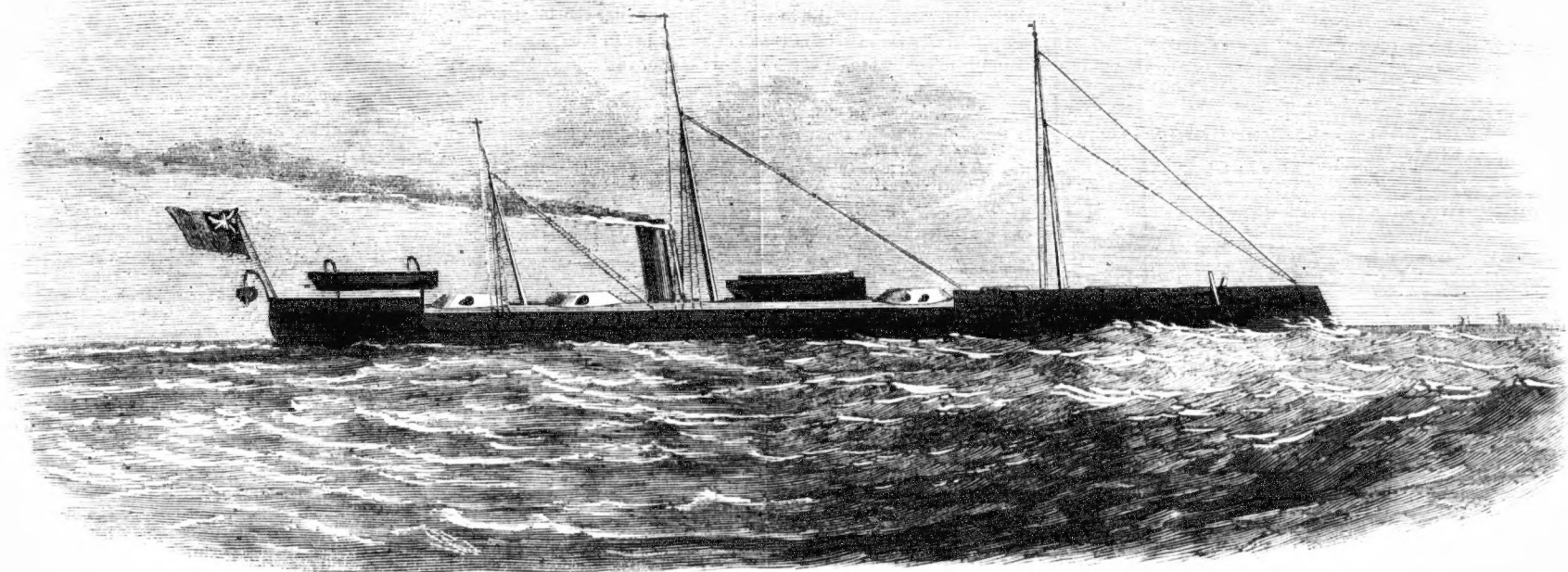
placed in the centre of the ship—that is, one-third in the centre: the shields and the other two-thirds on the side. It will also be seen that, when the broadside gun of an ordinary ship would roll in the water, the gun in the shield would be some feet out of the water.



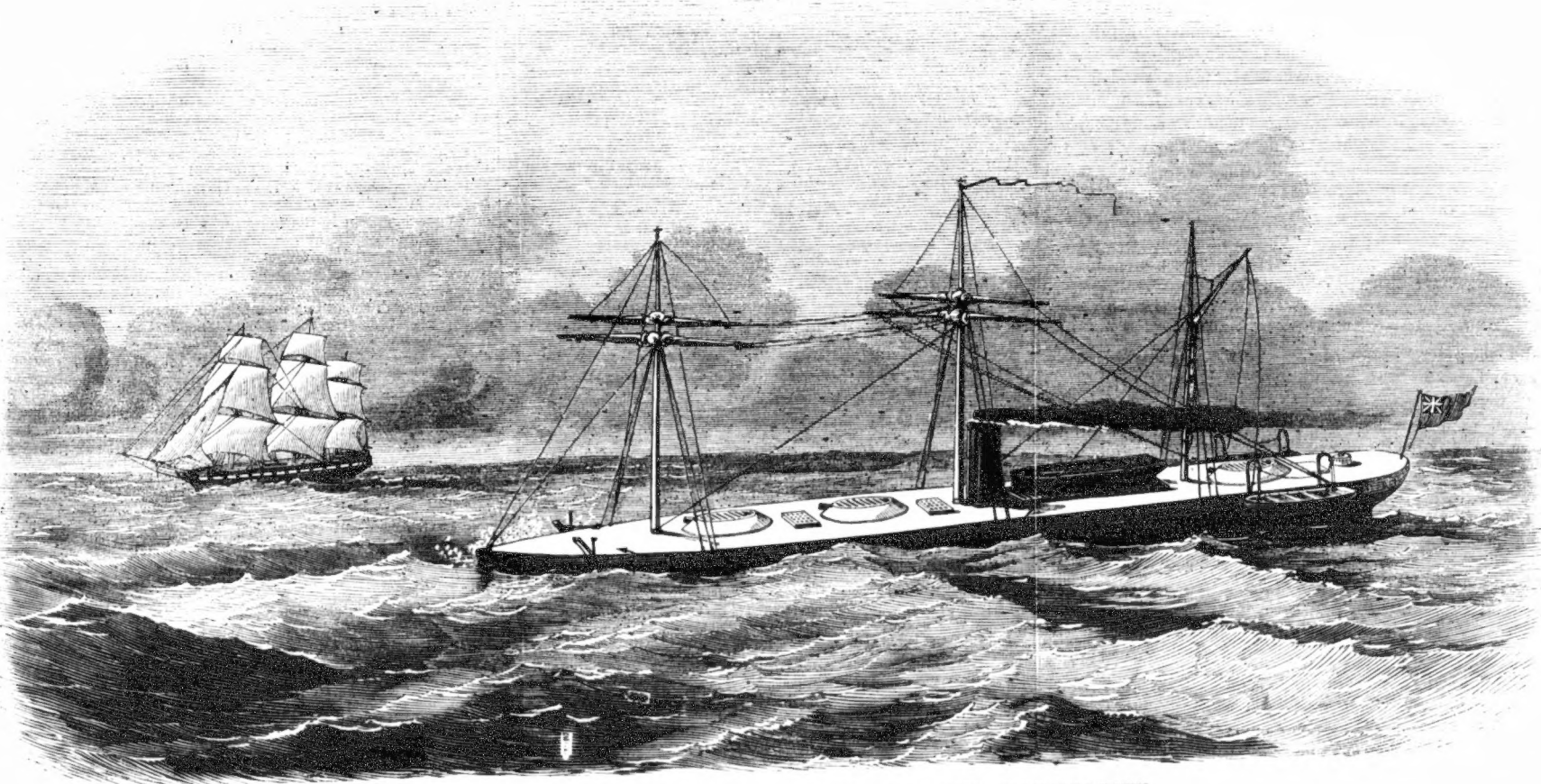
LINE-OF-BATTLE SHIP CUT DOWN FOR COAST DEFENCE—A PORTION OF THE BULWARKS LET DOWN.

Length, 250 feet. Beam, 58 feet. Draught of water, 23 feet. 1000-horse power. Armament, five 150-pounders, or ten 110 or 68-pounders.

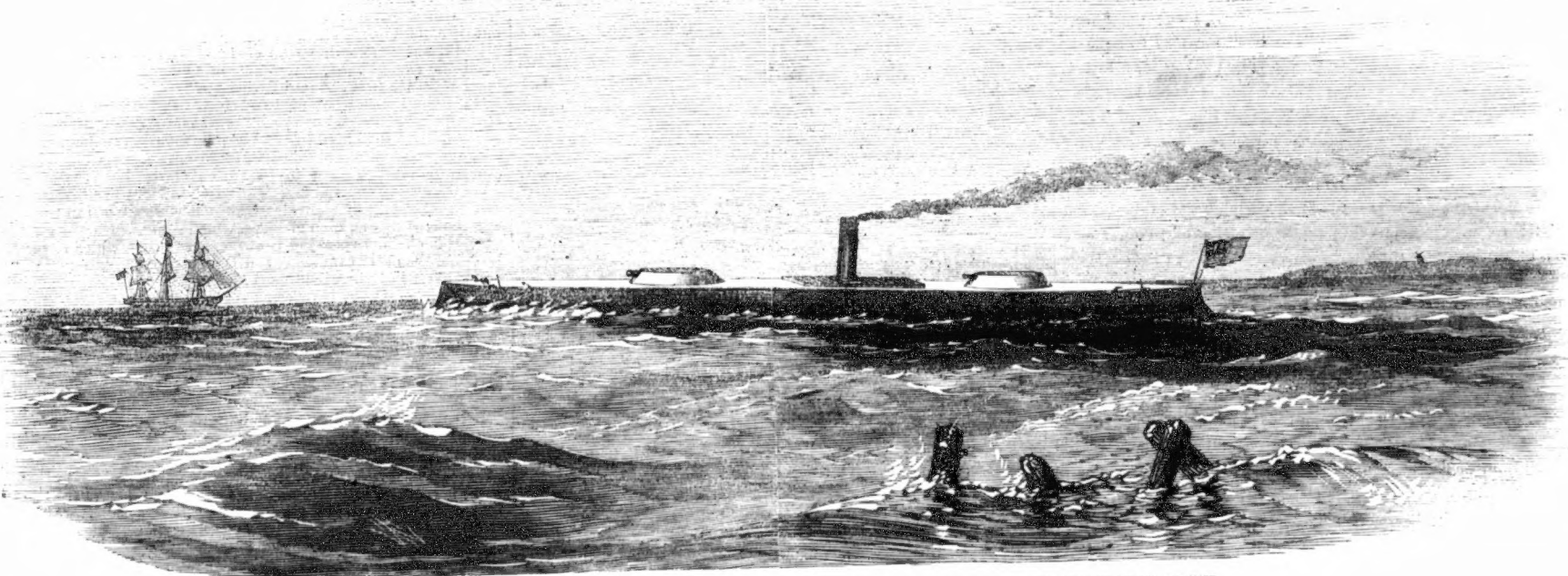
CAPTAIN COLES'S CUPOLA SHIPS.



CUPOLA-SHIELD FRIGATE FOR FOREIGN SERVICE
Length, 260 feet. Beam, 45 feet. Draught of water, 21 feet. 1000-horse power. Armament, four 150-pounders, or eight 110-pounders.



CUPOLA-SHIELD SLOOP FOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLEARED FOR ACTION—BULWARKS DOWN.
Length, 200 feet. Beam, 40 feet. 600-horse power. Canvas, 10,000 square feet. Armament, three 150-pounders.



CUPOLA-SHIELD GUN BOAT OR RAFT FOR COAST DEFENCE CLEARED FOR ACTION—BULWARKS DOWN.
Length, 170 feet. Beam, 26 feet. Armament, two 150-pounders.

ENLARGEMENT OF THE ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

HAVING regard to the large demand which the necessary Illustrations and Descriptive Notices of the Great International Exhibition will shortly make on the already limited space of the ILLUSTRATED TIMES, the Proprietors feel that, in order to give due prominence to this important national event, an enlargement of the Paper will be absolutely necessary. They beg, therefore, to announce that the dimensions of the present sheet will be increased so as to admit of a considerable enlargement in the size of the printed page, and also of a more ample margin. The quality of the paper will at the same time be improved, to enable justice to be done to the numerous highly-finished Engravings which it is intended to produce in connection with the Great International Exhibition of 1862.

In addition to the above, the Proprietors have to announce that during the period the Exhibition will remain open it is their intention to issue with the ILLUSTRATED TIMES a series of

GRATUITOUS ILLUSTRATED SUPPLEMENTS.

embracing Representations of the Interior of the Exhibition building from the most interesting points of view, and also of its more remarkable Contents. These Illustrations will be drawn and engraved in the most careful manner, and will be printed separately on fine paper.

The proposed change in the size of the ILLUSTRATED TIMES will take place on Saturday, May 3, the Number for which date will contain an account of the opening of the Exhibition, very fully illustrated. On this occasion the first Gratuitous Illustrated Supplement will be issued, to be followed at intervals by the remaining Supplements.

The Price of the ILLUSTRATED TIMES in its enlarged form will be 3d., and the Number for May 3 will form the commencement of a new volume, which will comprise an elaborate illustrated record of the Great International Exhibition of 1862 complete in itself.

With the ILLUSTRATED TIMES for April 26 a Titlepage and Index to Vol. XIV. will be issued.

ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 1862.

PROFITABLE HOSPITALITY.

IN a great undertaking like the International Exhibition of 1862, some failures and shortcomings are naturally to be expected. It may be that a building intended really for a dry-goods store ought to present more of the ordinary features of such an establishment than of the refined beauties of a classic architectural model. Nor is it to be looked for, as a matter of detail, that the various official orders, regulations, and notifications should be written with grammatical correctness, since, of all languages on the face of the earth, English is the only one which is not ordinarily spoken or written with propriety by those native and to the manner born.

Our friends the commissioners have, it appears, been handling pen and ink, with marvellous success, in creating misunderstandings and unpleasantness. We are not about to complain of the curious taste exhibited in decorating the walls of the building with sentences apparently intended to convey moral and religious instruction to the visitors, upon the unfounded assumption that the force of an apophthegm depends upon the size of the letters in which it can be displayed. Nor do we wish to carp at the eccentric orthography displayed in the nomenclature of some of the countries of which the industry is to be represented. The commissioners may have erred in these matters; but the result never threatened such disaster as did their letter of invitation to the dignitaries of the city of London. In this document the grandees of the City were addressed as the "Aldermen, officers, and Common Councilmen." The last named at once resented the indignity of being placed categorically after their own officers—the beadles, the swordbearer's young men, and such salaried individuals. Their just anger was represented to the commissioners, who strove to avert it by another invitation, in which the officers were omitted altogether. This was satisfactory—to the Common Councilmen, at least. It is true the invitation is somewhat prudent in its character. It is confined to such of the invited as should be season-ticket holders, and they were to be generously permitted to bring each a lady, such lady being also a season-ticket holder. The season tickets will not be above five guineas each at first, so that the generosity of the invitation can be readily appreciated.

These great personages are, it appears, expected to come in their official costumes, so as to make a pageant—a kind of Lord Mayor's Show upon a May-day. At least if they do not, it will be the worse for them; for by an ordonnance of the commissioners we are informed that the reserved seats will be distributed to the visitors "according to their choice of dress." The grander the dress the nearer the front, of course. The exclusion of the "officers" will probably shut out the "man in brass," who otherwise might have been entitled to squeeze into the front of the assembled nations on paying for a season ticket.

A correspondent proposes that to swell the pageant a procession should be formed to march from one of the parks, while the ground should be kept on each side by volunteers. The volunteers would, of course, be delighted to act as policemen outside the show, but we fear they might object to take season tickets for the purpose, as they might be expected to do.

All exhibitors, and even their assistants, are to pay for their admission to the building. From every quarter of the world come daily pouring in national productions and art manufactures. As these are secured, the exhibitors are coolly requested actually to pay for the privilege of protecting their own goods while being exhibited for the profit of the exhibition! The next step can only be to insist upon the purchase of season tickets by the very policemen and workmen. Perhaps even the Archbishop of Canterbury may have, before he can bless the building, to bless his own luck for enabling him to get in without paying.

Seriously, one would like to know what is the idea of these gentlemen with respect to their own position and responsibilities. Do they imagine that they are simply the directors of an enormous commercial speculation? This alone could

be their excuse. But how can this view be reconciled with the opening of their shop or show by a Royal Commission, with the ecclesiastical benediction by the chief high priest, or with the noble and gratuitous assistance which has been so generously bestowed upon them from the uttermost ends of the earth? When every nation sends that which is the most precious that its climate, its industry, and its art can produce to swell the great International Exhibition, let us hope that it will not have to be said that in the department superscribed "England" there was exhibited, under the label "Hospitality," a framed list of prices of admission to the guests whose liberality had filled every other corner of the edifice.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

IT IS THE QUEEN'S wish that no celebration of her Majesty's birthday should take place this year.

HER MAJESTY will leave Osborne on the 28th inst., and will proceed to Windsor Castle, where the Queen will pass the night. On the following day (the 29th) her Majesty will start for Balmoral, stopping, it is expected, one day en route, as usual.

THE PRINCE OF WALES has been appointed Colonel of a Hungarian regiment in the Austrian service.

THE EARL OF DERBY has so far recovered as to be able to leave his bedroom.

DR. THOMSON, the new Bishop of Gloucester, was formally enthroned in the Cathedral Church of the diocese last week.

THE MARBLE ELEPHANTS which stood in the Kaiser Bagh at Lucknow, and which were removed from there a short time back, are en route for England, as an offering to the Queen.

THE MARRIAGE between Lady Louisa Thynne, sister of the Marquis of Bath, and Colonel the Hon. P. R. B. Feilding, son of the Earl of Denbigh, is fixed to take place on the 28th inst.

HER MAJESTY has conferred upon Captain J. H. Brown, R.N., registrar of seamen, the honour of Companion of the Bath, in recompense of his services in organising the Royal Naval Reserve.

THE EAST WINDOW OF THE WARRIOR CHAPEL, Canterbury Cathedral, has recently been filled with stained glass as a memorial to those of the Buffs (3rd Regiment) who fell in the Crimea.

MR. FOLLY'S STATUE OF SIR C. BARRY, which is to have a place in the witnesses' lobby in the Houses of Parliament, is to be shortly erected there.

IT IS UNDERSTOOD that the Exhibition of the New Society of Painters in Water Colours will not be opened this year for at least a month later than usual, the members requiring time to complete their works.

MR. ALFRED LATHAM has been elected Governor, and Mr. Kirkman Daniel Hodgson Deputy-Governor, of the Bank of England.

ON SUNDAY 240 Coventry weavers were dispatched from Liverpool for Quebec in the Colleen, one of the emigration-ships belonging to Messrs. Sabel and Searle.

THE PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL COMPANY are building three large steamers, to be called respectively the Poonah, Mysore, and Rangoon.

THE CUCKOO has been heard in the neighbourhood of Southampton.

THE "FEMALE BLONDIN" was performing last week at Sheffield, when the rope broke, and she fell a distance of twenty or thirty feet, and was seriously injured.

MR. ANTHONY TROLLOPE is engaged in preparing for the press two volumes to deal with and be called "North America."

IN CONSEQUENCE OF THE PREVAILING DISTRESS at Rochdale, the annual meeting of the Agricultural Society of that district has been postponed to 1863.

TWO EXAMINATIONS for direct commissions are to be held at Chelsea Hospital in May next—the one commencing on the 5th and the other on the 12th of that month.

PAUL DELAROCHE's celebrated picture of "Marie Antoinette led to Execution" has been purchased for the enormous sum of £32,000 by a wealthy London brewer.

THE ROYAL ACADEMY has resolved to advance the allowances to the widows of academicians and associates from £75 per annum to £100 in the first class, and from £45 to £75 per annum in the second.

IT IS STATED that Mr. Bramley-Moore's acknowledged expenses for the last Lincoln election are somewhere about £1800—more than twice the cost of his previous contest.

A NEW LIBERAL JOURNAL, called the Progress, appeared at Berlin on April 8, at seven in the morning, and was suppressed at five in the evening.

THE NATIONAL DEBT OF THE UNITED STATES on the 12th of last month was 303,049,710 10/16s., of which 181,930,811 10/16s. was in Treasury notes.

A THIRD ATTEMPT is about to be made to introduce salmon into Australia. A steam-vessel is being constructed in London, at the expense of the Australian Association, for the express purpose of taking out salmon ova and young salmon.

IN 1861, 2,978,920 bushels of wheat, 52,244 bushels of barley, and 125,296 bushels of beans were imported into Leghorn.

THE BELGIAN CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES have adopted the Government proposition for the organisation of a new daily postal service between Ostend and Dover.

DURING THE LAST FIVE YEARS 58,568,424 passengers have been conveyed over the Massachusetts railroads: 204 persons were killed on these railroads during that period.

MR. HENRY BIRD, whose property has just been sworn under £200,000, leaves the whole to his two sons, on pain of forfeiture if they wear a moustache, the property in that case to be applied to the erection of a dwelling for the homeless poor of London.

AN ULTRA-CLERICAL PAPER published in Boulogne asserts that the sister of Borg's, who was captured in command of a band of brigands in Naples some time since, and shot, is now at the head of a numerous band, and has declared her intention of avenging her brother's death.

THE ANNUAL COST of maintaining five training-ships and four bries for the training of 2500 boys for the Royal Navy is £13,589, or £17 8s. 9d. for each boy. If to this sum be added the wages and victuals of a second-class boy, the average rate is brought up to £45 17s. 3d.

ON JAN. 17 a mutiny took place among the troops in garrison at Cape Coast Castle because the men had to go without their dinners. Two of the men were put under arrest, but the mutineers insisted upon their discharge, a demand which had to be complied with.

AT WOOLSTONE, in Hampshire, a famous resort for English song and other birds, the blackbird, thrush, skylark, brown linnnet, robin, hedge sparrow, and wren are now in full song. The nightingale is expected daily. The barley-bird and nettle-creeper have arrived there remarkably early this season.

A LETTER FROM FLORENCE mentions that, at the preparatory rifle-shooting in that city, among the persons distinguished by their skill were two young English ladies—Miss Adela Reader and Miss Bianchina Light. The manner in which they hit the mark excited general admiration.

THE BIRDS OF PARADISE in Regent's Park Gardens have become domesticated in their new and large cages, and one is so tame that he eats beetles freely from the keeper's hand. This is the more remarkable because the birds are so pugnacious that it has been found necessary to keep them in separate cages.

THE STUDENTS AT WARSAW attempted lately to get up a disturbance in the cathedral, and interrupted the Archbishop. The attempt was, however, unsuccessful, and ended in the arrest of fourteen of the students.

THE 600,000 troops in the Federal army require per month 14,625,000 lb. of pork or 24,375,000 lb. of fresh beef, 136,991 barrels of flour, 48,750 bushels of beans or 1,050,000 lb. of rice, 1,950,000 lb. of cocoa, 2,892,000 lb. of coffee, 105,000 gallons of vinegar, 12,449 tubs of salt, 3,550,000 lb. of potatoes, 1,170,000 lb. of candles, and 3,120,000 lb. of soap.

MR. M'EWAN, sub-editor of the *Fifehire Advertiser*, has committed suicide at Kinghorn, where he had gone to attend an ordination service. He took tea with the minister of the Free Church before he committed the act. The melancholy end of Hugh Miller was part of the conversation at the tea-table.

CORN AND PORK are now raised in such enormous quantities in the western States of America, and the prices are so low, that the farmers there are turning their attention to syrup and sugar making and to the culture of flax, hemp, sorghum, cotton, and other articles. Pork, which realised 25s. per cwt. in 1860, now fetches 10s. 6d. per cwt.

THE ALL-ENGLAND ELEVEN defeated twenty-two New South Wales cricketers in a grand match at Sydney on the 29th and 30th of January.

THE AUSTRALIAN PAPERS say that Sir William and Lady Don are on a professional visit to Tasmania. According to last accounts, they have been warmly received in Launceston.

THE BRITISH VESSEL NAPOLEON III., of Sunderland, has been wrecked on the Portuguese coast, with the loss of nine lives.

AN EXPLOSION OF Gas took place on Wednesday night in High Holborn, where some workmen were employed repairing the gaspipes in the streets. Iron pipes, paving stones, and the workmen employed were hurled about in all directions, and several of the men were so seriously injured that it is feared they will not survive. It is not known how the explosion occurred.

MR. MISSING, a draper, shot himself in a carriage on the North Kent Railway on Wednesday, while the train in which he was a passenger was going through the Blackheath Tunnel.

GENERAL TIERRA has been restored to his rank in the active army of Italy by a decree of King Victor Emmanuel, dated the 11th inst.

THE ANNUAL TOBACCO CROP is about 250,000 tons, and the nicotine contained in this is 12,500 tons, which, if administered in proper quantities, is estimated to be enough to destroy every living thing on the face of the globe.

LETTERS FROM CANNES state that Lord Brougham was in robust health. On his way home to England his Lordship proposes to make a short stay in Paris. His Lordship is expected in town after the Easter recess.

TRADE HAS BECOME BRISK in Paris in consequence of the approach of Easter. This is the season, moreover, when country shopkeepers come to Paris to renew their stock and to supply themselves with fashionable stuffs for spring and summer wear.

ROSSINI has just been named by the Queen of Spain "Commander of the Order of Charles III."

THE ALBERT MEMORIAL FUND now amounts to £45,860.

ON WEDNESDAY a deputation from the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society presented an address to Mr. Adams, the American Minister, expressing the gratification the society felt at the appointment of a gentleman holding anti-slavery views to represent the United States in England.

ON WEDNESDAY the iron-clad frigate Black Prince made a trial trip off the Isle of Wight, when experiments to test her sailing powers and readiness to obey her helm were made, and the results were deemed very satisfactory.

IT IS ANNOUNCED that the full particulars of the case between the Middle Temple Benchers and Mr. Seymour, M.P., will shortly be published.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

THE silence of the Conservative leaders during the Italian debate on Friday has been the topic of conversation in all political circles ever since; and some profess to think that it was extraordinary and impolitic. Well, that it was extraordinary there cannot be a doubt; that it is so, it was not ordinary for no pronouncement on such a subject—a great question of Ministerial and national policy—to be made by statesmen who have been, and expect to be again in a few months, on the Treasury benches. But was not this reticence inevitable? Under the circumstances was it possible for Disraeli, or Pakington, or Mr. Seymour Fitzgerald to open their lips? I think it was not. For what could these gentlemen have said if they had broken silence? If they had sided with Sir George Bowyer, they would have offended three-fourths of their supporters in the House. This must be clear to all who were present and heard the ringing cheers which ever and anon burst forth from the occupants of the Opposition benches whilst Layard and Gladstone and Palmerston were speaking. On the other hand, if the Conservative leaders had pronounced for United Italy and against the Pope, they would at once have destroyed that hallucination which they have fostered and encouraged amongst the Roman Catholics, and by means of which they have lately added so many members to the Conservative ranks. That this hallucination exists cannot be doubted. At Birkenhead, at Preston, at Grimsby, and in South Lancashire, it is certain that the Roman Catholics almost to a man voted for the Derbyite candidates under the avowed impression that a Derby Government would side with the Pope; whilst in Ireland at this moment a Liberal has not the ghost of a chance, except in the north, of gaining a seat. In the county of Longford Colonel White was supposed to be all-powerful; but even there the priestly influence beat the landlords, whilst neither the Attorney-General nor Solicitor-General can obtain a seat. Under the circumstances, then, what could Disraeli and his quondam colleagues in office do but maintain an unbroken silence? On the one side there was the Protestant Scylla, on the other the voracious Ultramontane Charybdis, and the *via media* was the only course open. But they must pronounce if they get into office; and there lies the difficulty a Derby Administration would labour under. Some men fancy that, whilst the Liberal party is confessedly disorganised, the Opposition is compact as a Roman legion; but there never was a greater mistake than this. In opposition the Conservative party appears to be tolerably united on most subjects and well drilled; but let it once change sides, and all this apparent solidity will soon loosen, and disintegrate, and go to pieces. Let us imagine that Disraeli had been leader of the House on Friday last, what could he have done with Sir George Bowyer's motion? Silence then would have been quite impossible; and yet, on the other hand, however he might have spoken, he must have offended one section or the other of his party. "But such subjects may be avoided; the Irish will keep quiet." Will they? You do not know them, my friend. But if they would, what is to hinder the other side from mooting the question? On the whole, then, the Conservative leaders are beset with difficulties. Disraeli, no doubt, is profoundly indifferent to either faction, and is ready to say in his heart, "A plague on both your Houses!" But the subject cannot be so got rid of. It will stick to him like a bur; he has created this Frankenstein, and it will haunt him like a shadow.

Lambeth is becoming virtuous. A meeting has been held at which it was openly mooted that members ought to be returned free of cost, and a requisition to Mr. Montagu Chambers is now in course of signature which makes it a condition precedent that the learned gentleman shall be called upon to spend no more money than is necessary to defray the legal expenses. Now, this is good, very good—a most excellent notion; but it yet remains to be seen how it will stand the test of experiment. Just now there is a chance of success; for, as it is probable that a dissolution will occur next year, moneyed men are shy of investing a large sum for a seat which in a few months they may have to buy again; but, if a millionaire should turn up, I confess that I shall be surprised if the new-born virtue of Lambeth should stand the strain upon its resolution. Mr. Montagu Chambers is the well-known barrister. He first got into Parliament for Greenwich, in 1852—but in 1857 Greenwich went mad and elected that unique representative of the people, "John Townsend," auctioneer, &c.—"Honest John," as his friends delighted to call him; but "Honest John" got into pecuniary difficulties, and in 1859 could not show. Greenwich, however, would not return to its ancient love, but preferred Mr. Alderman Salomons and Mr. Angerstein to Mr. Chambers, who was below Angerstein by 800 votes. Mr. Chambers, when in the House, was thought to be a man of respectable talents. He was a bit of a bore, though—his speaking is of the jogtrot sort, which never tires. Doulton, the other candidate, is a Dissenter of the extremist school, and believes in "the dissidence of Dissent."

The Earl of Derby is reported concave; but these successive attacks make his political friends very uneasy, for his Lordship is not like old Pam. He springs up from a fit of the gout with amazing elasticity; but with the Earl of Derby it is not so. Every fresh assault evidently leaves him a different man to what it found him; and yet the noble Earl is not so old as the Premier by fifteen years.

It is not from any want of admiration that I defer until next week any detailed notice of Mr. Frith's grand picture of "The Railway Station," which has been privately exhibited this week, but simply from the pressure of other business. The public will not be admitted until this day (Saturday), and Mr. Frith will soon know what their verdict is; but there can be no question that, such as "The Derby Day" was, this new picture will effectually distance it in popularity.

Some benevolent gentlemen, members of Parliament, authors, merchants, &c., have constituted themselves a committee for endeavouring to mitigate the troubles safe to be encountered by the

UNINTENTIONAL SUICIDE.—A shocking case of unintended self-murder was disclosed in an English court on Wednesday. Two lovers, who had some quarrel, came for a party of them to treat the company present. The young man, in the effort to bring about reconciliation, seized the spirits, and, in the heat of the moment, when he thought it had never been drunk before, drank a glass of the liquor, and fell back, with the bottle in his hand, and died.

"THE CRUCIFIXION."

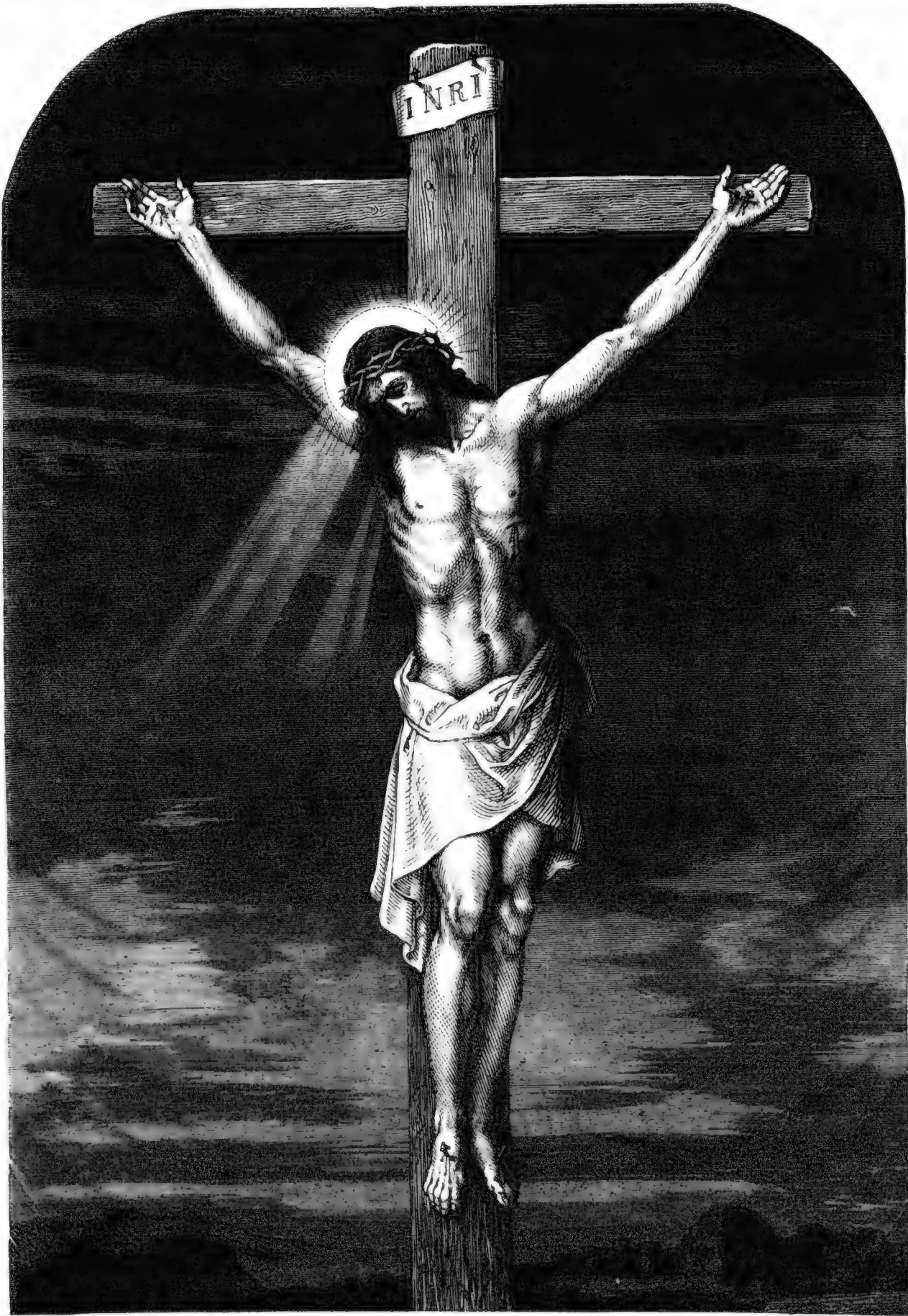
In Germany, as in other countries, the domain of art, which ought to be so tranquil and undisturbed, has been at various times agitated by the contentions of different schools. The remarkable creations of the modern Belgian painters have, however, during recent years wrought a powerful influence on German artists in general, and especially on those of the schools of Munich and Düsseldorf, where the adverse theories which formerly prevailed have been considerably modified.

Jäger, the painter of the impressive picture represented in our Illustration, never was a disciple of either of the great rival schools just named. With a self-relying and independent spirit, and uninfluenced by academic dogmas, he struck out a career for himself. Repudiating, like Cornelius Overbeck, the pseudo-classic art of the eighteenth century, he strove to give a new and healthier tone to German taste. How far his efforts must have contributed to the attainment of that object, his numerous masterly works sufficiently testify.

Gustave Jäger was born at Leipsic, in the year 1808, and at the age of fourteen he became a student at the Academy of Art in his native city. There he remained until the year 1829, at intervals making visits to Dresden, where, notwithstanding the academic routine strictly maintained by the old professors, the newly-awakened spirit of German art had its ardent worshippers among the more youthful artistic classes. In 1830 Jäger repaired to Munich, where, with the exception of a two years' visit to Italy, he remained for a long interval, closely employed in assisting Julius Schnorr in the great mural paintings on which that eminent artist was engaged. From Munich Jäger removed to Weimar, where he was commissioned to paint the frescoes which adorn the walls of the Herder Chamber in that city—a series of paintings remarkable alike for poetic conception in design and masterly handling in execution. In 1849 Jäger was appointed Director of the Royal Academy of Art at Leipsic, a post which he still honourably fills.

Among his most admired works we may briefly mention the following:—The drawings for the illustration of the Cotta Bible (1849); a Crucifixion for the Royal Chapel at Weesenstein (1854); "The Marriage of St. Catherine," purchased for the Royal Gallery at Dresden (1855); "Anointing the Feet of the Saviour" (1859); "The Resurrection" and "The Ascension," two frescoes painted for a mausoleum at Schönefeld, near Leipsic; and a full-length portrait of Superintendent Dr. Grossman, of Leipsic, for the Church St. Thomas in that city.

The drawing for the wood engraving of the Crucifixion now presented to our readers was made on the block by Jäger himself, from the altarpiece painted by him in the Church of Frauenberg, in Courland. We need not point attention to its admirable execution. In the painting itself the effect of the light is managed in most masterly style. The evening clouds are gathering in the background, and the receding rays of departing daylight are supposed to fall full on the figure of the Saviour, thereby throwing it out in strong yet subdued relief. The painful feeling naturally excited by the aspect of physical suffering is here mitigated, if not wholly neutralised, by an impress of calmness and dignity, combined with sublime resignation and mild trustfulness. Altogether the effect of the picture is exceedingly pleasing, and will doubtless tend to extend the already well-merited fame of the artist.



THE CRUCIFIXION.—(FROM A PICTURE BY G. JÄGER, OF LEIPSIK.)

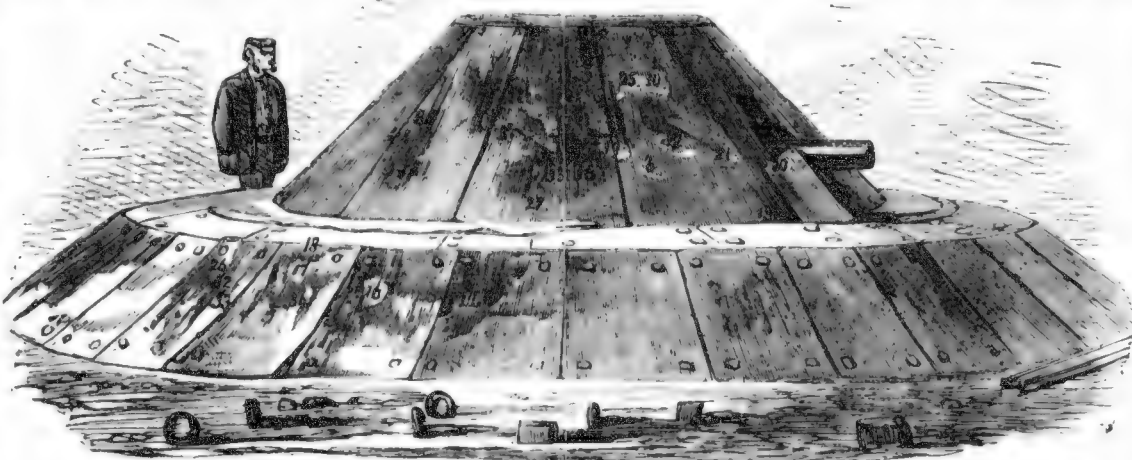
COUNT NESSELRODE, CHANCELLOR OF THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE.

ANOTHER great name, long associated with European diplomacy, has become only a part of the history of the past. Count Charles Robert Nesselrode Ereshofen died in St. Petersburg on the 22nd

when he desired to pass the remainder of a long and arduous life in retirement from public affairs. Besides his Russian honours, Nesselrode had been presented with most of the European orders—St. Stephen of Hungary, the Red Eagle of Prussia, the Charles III. of Spain, the Golden Eagle of Wurtemberg, the Fidelity of Baden, the Elephant of Denmark, the Star of Sweden and the Cordon of the French Legion of Honour. He represented the German party in Russia, but was throughout characterised by great moderation. By his marriage with a daughter of Count Gourief, the former Minister of Finance, who died in 1849, he leaves three children—Hélène, married to Count Chreptowitch; Demetri, Chamberlain to the Emperor; and Marie, married to the Baron Seebach, Minister of Saxony at the Courts of France and Italy.

THE NEST OF THE GOLDEN EGGS.

How it came about that I should have been led to consider in these columns the three great British institutions of Beef, Bread, and Beer without some previous indication that a further duty lay before me in visiting the place where the primary element of our national greatness is exhibited I



CAPT. COLE'S CUPOLA-SHIELD MOUNTED ON BOARD H.M.S. TRUSTY, SHOWING THE RESULTS OF PRACTICE AGAINST IT. (FROM A PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN BY ORDER OF THE WAR DEPARTMENT.)

find it difficult to explain. Fortunately, I became aware that Bank Annuities should in every well-regulated mind (that is to say, in the minds of comfortable receivers of dividends) precede these topics as the very cornerstone of our great social edifice. Not being a comfortable recipient, however, and having only a lively interest, without principal, in the Money Market, I am painfully conscious of my mistake; and, to make up for former neglect, hasten to Threadneedle-street to contemplate philanthropically or cynically the good fortune of others.

Such of the golden eggs as are not left for future incubation are now ready to be distributed, and the scene in Threadneedle-street is becoming even more lively than usual. In that shady-looking, quiet area, planted with trees, its stone steps looking like dwarf terraces, there is not wanting a sense of pastoral simplicity as treated in the Watteau manner. Very still, and with cool shadows lingering here and there in its architectural nooks, this garden of the Bank leads with fitting solemnity to those offices where the twenty-five million golden eggs are ready for delivery, where auriferous and argentine bars are weighed in the mysterious bullion-office; where the vaults lie in which Bank stock and deposits are preserved; to the lobby where hangs the portrait of Abraham Newland, the baker's shopman, who became the wealthy chief clerk; to the awful parlour where conversation must flow in truly Pactolean streams.

When the business of the Governor and Company was carried on in Grocers' Hall—that is to say, from 1694 to 1734—this central area was the churchyard of St. Christopher, in Threadneedle-street, and, indeed, remained as a churchyard until 1781, when the church itself was removed for the purpose of enlarging the Bank, which had been built upon the site of the house and garden of Sir John Houbton, the first Governor. Once acquainted with the locality of this same garden, and knowing its former use, the solemn quiet air which reigns there is explained. Churchyards retain some of their characteristics long after their uses have been changed, and, until the full roar and turmoil of life pass over them, seem to preserve strange, lingering shadows and a silence which leave them like unruffled islands in the noisy outer sea. There are many such in London streets shrinking back into queer, dusty, old nooks all built in, but haunted by solemn birds, and throwing long-flecked reflections of their ancient trees across the busy pathways. To the fact of the old churchyard, perhaps, may be attributed the magnificent spectacle of the Bank beadle, who, gorgeous in an uniform which recalls eccle-

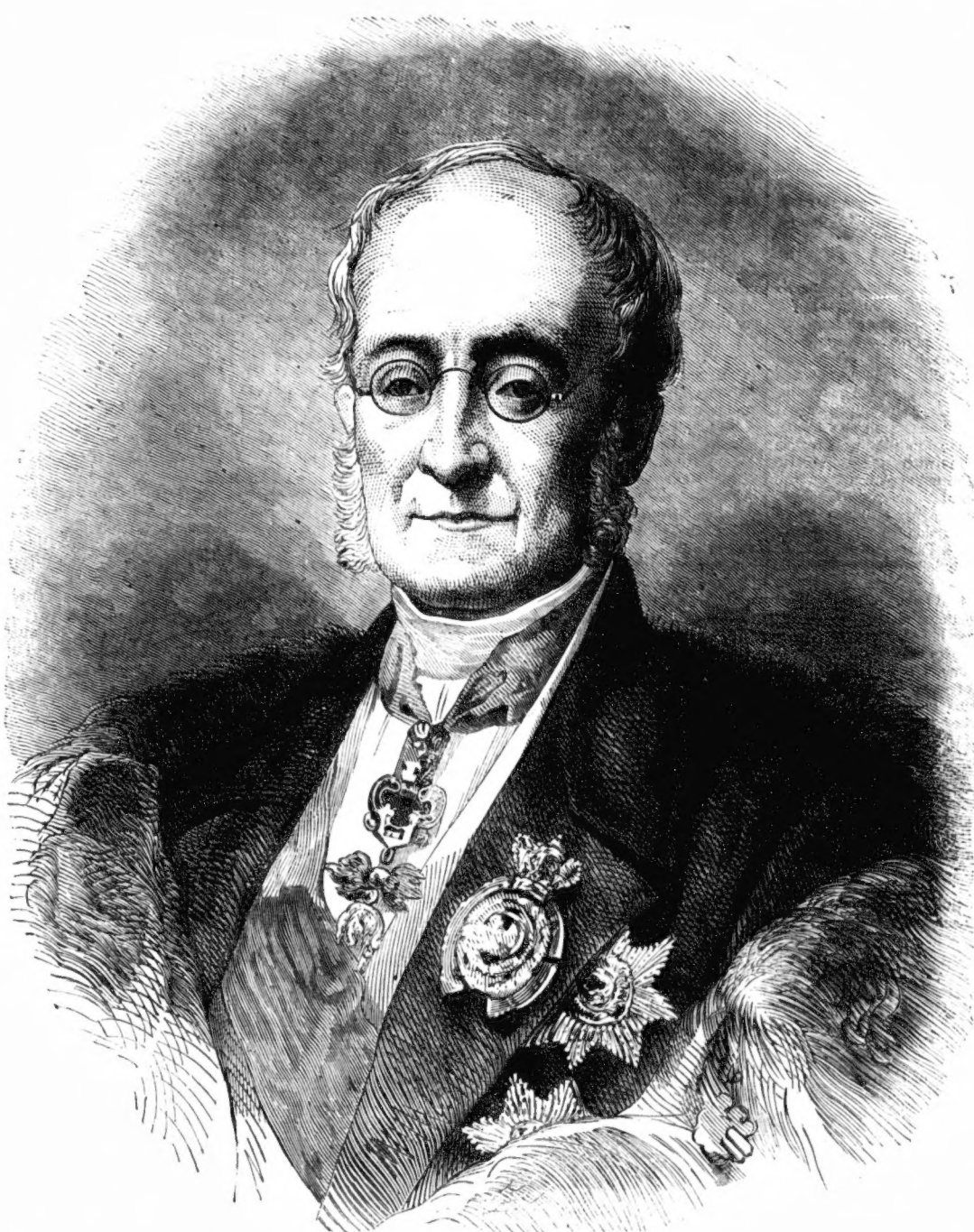
siastical, or almost pontifical, splendours, is surely the very perfection of all official attire. In his own person he combines the best effects of royal, clerical, corporate, and magisterial bea-

dom, while, added to these, he inspires awe by his mysterious con-

nection with capital and a consciousness of daily acquaintance with untold wealth, both qualifications being admirably intimated by the absence of bullion on his official robes. But the fortunate claimants of dividends are arriving fast and carriages driving up. Elderly gentlemen, ancient dames, comely matrons, well-jointed widows, alight, by the assistance of the porters who open the doors, from handsome chariots, some driven by powdered coachmen; others, old family drags, shiny but sober, with quiet liveries and comfortable cushions.

My business, however, is not with these, nor, indeed, with their owners, who form but a small portion of the customers thronging the dividend-office. It is at the other entrance, in Bartholomew-lane, that the British annuitants gather in force, and a strange sight it is to see for any contemplative man who, having no weight of money on his mind, and being idle enough to stand with his back against a pillar and look on, watches the company who come and go through the swinging doors into that dingy lobby. Marvellous and almost spectral some of them, as being seen at no other time in London streets, coming no one knows whence like shadows of a faded and a sordid past, dressed in costumes belonging to no particular period, but compounded of the fashions of several—yellow, blotched, wrinkled, and with an unpleasant consciousness of pay-day on their lowering visages. Many of them are members of the same family, battered-looking men about whose youth, if they were ever young, not a guess can be hazarded. Here is a family party of four—one man and three sharp although decrepid women, one much older than the rest. They have clubbed together for a dingy fly with a broken-knee'd horse, whose driver smells strongly of the stable, and leaves his customers to open the door for themselves. They all have dividends to receive, and as the elder woman totters forward, assisted but little by a kinsman's arm, the same thought occurs to each of her three companions, who cannot conceal the glance which estimates her chance of life, and reckons on the day when her share will be divided amongst survivors under the will. Spinsters of narrow means, but still genteel, drive up in hired carriages, which look dirtier and less tidy than common street cabs.

Two things are remarkable in these ladies—their wistful, faded faces, so old and worn, and their strange propensity for garments light in colour and thin in material, which cling scantily about them, and look unutterably cold and spare. These, and dingy men, dressed in dusty, faded mourning, and wearing huge gloves whose lengthy fingers project



THE LATE COUNT DE NESSELRODE, CHANCELLOR OF THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE.—(FROM A PICTURE BY M. KRUYER.)



LONDON SKETCHES, NO. 17.—DIVIDEND DAY AT THE BANK OF ENGLAND.

like talons—men, in fact, who seem to show their respect for the legacy by retaining as long as possible the emblems of distress for the testator's death—pass in amidst the bustling of spruce clerks, or the easy saunter of redundant whiskered and gorgeously-apparelled stockbrokers of that highly-washed appearance which belongs to those gentlemen. The crowd waiting in the dividend-office, under the letters from A to Z, grows larger, and the little old lady can scarcely sign her name, although her granddaughter places the pen in her trembling hand. Strange varieties of expression dwell upon that assemblage of faces as they receive the printed paper which will be exchanged for money in the room represented by the artist. The burly countryman who takes gold sees future improvements in his sties and stables, but not without the half-uneasy consciousness that the money by right belongs to the "missus," and she ought to have a new gown out of it at least. The little old dame, tottering on by help of an umbrella paralytic as herself and her companion's arm, will have a cosy, comfortable tea and a hot supper, and will certainly call at the grocer's on her way home. The buttoned-up old fellow with that dyed moustache thinks ruefully of the Northampton Races, on which he lost lately, and hopes for better fortune on Epsom Downs, of which he doubts when he sees the slender balance of his six months' claim. The young widow is all unused to encounter such a scene alone and unprotected; but all are not too busy to give her the information she needs, and, indeed, that sorrowful but sweet face might well cause even a busy man to turn and regard it with a sympathetic glance, even though his thoughts were at the moment fixed on the speculation which must turn out so successful. The more dashing widow who has now discarded weeds, and whose rosy children are in the carriage at the door, will make an excursion to the Lowther Arcade before going home, perhaps taking St. Paul's-churchyard in her way; and it is tolerably certain that the jolly couple who walk boldly arm-in-arm to the money-counter will adjourn to Birch's opposite and lunch off mock turtle and iced punch. One and all have commenced anew to scheme and apportion, and in thought to spend and barter, the golden eggs. Some may have been imprudently pulling feathers from the goose who lays them by selling out their stock to meet the demands of extravagance or folly. From the feeble old lady who creeps onward with her load of years to the boy who sees no end either to enjoyment or the means of procuring it, that motley crowd passes in and out till the last coin rings from the cashier's copper shovel, and the business of the dividend-office closes for the day.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

It appears that at last there is an end to all prohibition of theatrical performances during Passion Week, except, of course, on Good Friday. Last year only the singing and drinking halls were allowed to remain open. Now all that is changed; and (to keep to the musical theatres, which alone concern us) two performances were announced for this week at the Royal Italian Opera—on Tuesday the "Trovatore," with Mdlle. Gordosa as Leonora, Mdlle. Didice as Azucena, Mr. Santley as the Count de Luna, and Signor Tamberlik as Manrico; on Thursday "La Favorita," with Mdlle. Csillag, Faure, and Gardoni in the principal parts.

"William Tell" is to be played again on Easter Monday, when it will doubtless attract a host of holiday-makers to Covent Garden. It is pleasing to find that this magnificent opera is becoming quite popular in London. We congratulate not so much the composer as the British public on the fact.

Her Majesty's Theatre opens on the 26th of this month with "Un Ballo in Maschera." The following is the cast:—Ricardo, Signor Giuglini; Renato, Signor Giraltoni; Tom, Signor Gassier; Osen, Mdlle. Dario; Ulrica, Mdlle. Lemaire; Amelia, Mdlle. Titens. Mdlle. Dario and Signor Giraltoni (for whom the part of Renato was written) appear for the first time in England.

We hear that Her Majesty's Theatre has undergone a thorough renovation, that several alterations have been effected in various parts of the building which the directors thought were imperatively called for, that a new arrangement of stalls and of the approaches thereto has been made, that the crush-room and the entrances have been rendered most commodious and elegant, that the greatest attention has been bestowed upon proper ventilation, and, finally, that "the most zealous and assiduous care has been taken to render all the arrangements of this great, this Imperial, theatre as closely perfect as possibility could secure."

Whether this Imperial (Royal?) theatre and its arrangements be or be not "as closely perfect as possibility can secure," it is quite certain that the first opera produced will be played with a most admirable cast; and if, as we are assured is the case, Mr. Mapleson has succeeded in engaging the Philharmonic band, he will not only have one of the best companies in Europe, but also one of the best orchestras. The latest edition of the list of singers engaged includes the names of Mdlles. Titens, Carlotta Marchisio, Dario, Guerrabella, Drusilla Florio, Kellog, Barbara Marchisio, Lemaire and Trebelli; and of MM. Giuglini, Armandi, Giraltoni, Gassier, &c.

Signor Arditi is, fortunately, re-engaged as musical conductor. The ballet will not be very brilliant this year either at Her Majesty's Theatre or at the Royal Italian Opera, though Mr. Mapleson promises to endeavour to restore some of the glories of the old ballet days at the former establishment. With this view he has not engaged Mdlle. Rosati, as might perhaps have been imagined, but "Mdlles. Lamoureux, Bioletti, Morlacchi, and others." M. Petit is the ballet-master. Mr. Hargrave Jennings, so long and so well known as the secretary to Mr. Lumley throughout his management, has undertaken the office of secretary to the new director.

The musical season, which will not begin in all its dread reality until after Easter, will be something terrible this year. To begin with, there are the two Italian operas. Then Mr. E. T. Smith is endeavouring daily, by means of advertisements in the Times, to persuade some one to take Drury Lane and establish a third opera there. Twice the ordinary number of violinists, violoncellists, violas, flautists, and so on (need we go all through the orchestra?), are expected; besides all sorts of outlandish singers and musical trick-players, such as troops of Russian gipsies, Japanese gong-sounders, Chinese tum-tum-beaters, Swedish peasant-minstrels, and probably a party of Lapland witches. Then think of the second and third rate German pianists who will come over in shiploads from Hamburg and Antwerp, and the first-rate ones who will cross the water by the more expensive ferries of Ostend and Calais. The great beauty of it is that all these virtuosi on the piano, jewsharp, or whatever the instrument may be, are going to make their fortune. We trust they will not; for, if they do, we, being bound to listen to them, shall certainly lose our hearing.

We are reminded here by an article in the *Musical World* that a true exhibition of the singers of all nations is already going on at the Royal Italian Opera, and that one is about to begin at Her Majesty's Theatre. These establishments are said to be Italian; and so they are as regards the language in which the music is sung, and that not always, for the last time we heard "William Tell" at Covent Garden, Mdlle. Miolan-Carvalho sang "Sombre forêt" in French. As to the principal vocalists engaged, very few of them indeed—about a third at one theatre and half at the other—are Italians. The following is an account of their nationality at both houses, as far as we can remember, from the statement on the subject published by our music-ethnological contemporary:—

At the Royal Italian Opera all the tenors are Italians. Among the sopranos Mdlle. Miolan-Carvalho, Mdlle. Marie Battu, and Mdlle. Tagliafico, are French; Mdlle. Csillag is a Hungarian (a Magyar of the Mosaic branch); Mdlle. Rudersdorf is undoubtedly a German; Mdlle. Gordosa is, we believe, an Italian.

The charming contralto Mdlle. Nantier-Didice is not precisely French, as our learned contemporary has it. She comes from a

warmer climate, and has a softer voice than is to be found in France. Mdlle. Nantier-Didice is a French creole. Her father was a native of Burgundy, the country of wine; her mother of Brie, the country of cheese; herself of the Isle Bourbon, the country of coffee and of Paul and Virginia.

Among the basses and baritones Mr. Santley (in spite of his super-excellent singing) is an Englishman. M. Faure is a Frenchman; M. Zelger a Belgian; Herr Formes a "Teutsch"-man, as Mr. Carlyle would say. Signor Graziani could not be anything but an Italian; Signor Tagliafico might, but is not. Signor Polonini, too, is an Italian.

At Her Majesty's Theatre all the tenors (as at the Royal Italian) are Italians.

Among the sopranos, Mdlle. Titens, although she had the misfortune to be born at Hamburg, is, we believe and hope, of Hungarian origin. The Hungarians hope so too. Her name is spelt "Tietjens," of which the orthography was considered so frightful, and therefore so utterly and ridiculously inappropriate, that it was changed into "Titens," by the editors of the playbills of Her Majesty's Theatre (anno 1857). The critics of the *Musical World* and *Athenaeum*, being privileged persons, still call this admirable vocalist "Tietjens;" but ordinary journalists are expected to follow the spelling of the programmes.

Mesdames Guerrabella and Kellog are American—whether of the Northern or Southern persuasion we cannot say; but we believe Mdlle. Guerrabella to be a Federalist, so that, in all probability, Mdlle. Kellog is a Confederate.

Mesdames Lemaire and Trebelli are French.

M. Gassier is a Frenchman, from the richest and most musical and poetical province of France—Provence, the country of the troubadours and salad oil.

The sisters Marchisio, Mesdames Dario and Fiario, and all the basses and baritones except Gassier, are Italian.

The most Italian, then, of the two companies is the one engaged at Her Majesty's Theatre.

ROYAL GENERAL THEATRICAL FUND.

THESEVENTH anniversary festival in connection with this fund was held on Monday evening at the Freemasons' Tavern. About 200 gentlemen were present, and the chair was filled by Mr. Alfred Wigan. Among those present were Earl Somers, Sir Coutts Lindsay, Mr. T. P. Cooke, Mr. B. Webster, Mr. Buckstone, Mr. Stirling Coyne, Mr. Cullenford, Mr. Cathcart, Mr. Alfred Mellon, Mr. W. Farren, &c. The usual loyal and patriotic toasts followed the withdrawal of the cloth; and the Chairman then gave the toast of the evening, and, in doing so, observed that the General Theatrical Fund was established eighteen years ago, to supply a want that was felt for an additional institution of the same nature as the Drury Lane and Covent Garden Funds, which, from various causes, had been found inadequate to the exigencies of the profession for whose benefit they were instituted. The rewards of the successful actor were immediate, brilliant, and intoxicating, but they were as fleeting as they were brilliant, and the wave of a single generation was enough to wash away his shallow footsteps on the sands of time. Even for the most prosperous actor there was ever the peril of failing health, which might at any moment stop the most brilliant career. But there was another class on whom the accident that prevented the continuance of their exertions fell with a paralyzing weight—that numerous class, as necessary to the full development of the drama as the brightest stars, who had cheerfully accepted and worthily sustained their humble professional position. However prudently managed, their incomes afforded little promise of expansion, while the necessities and the various claims of life increased in undue proportion. To these how often anxious thoughts for the future occurred, their ill-spared contribution to this fund bore honourable testimony. The chairman made a very earnest and feeling appeal for assistance to all who felt that their debt of gratitude to the actor had not been discharged by the price paid for their seats; and, in conclusion, gave two instances of the benefits afforded by this fund. A gentleman, young, of promising ability, with a wife dependent on him and his professional earnings for existence, in one instant, by the falling of a stage platform on which he was standing, became a cripple for life, utterly incapable of further professional exertion. The other, a young lady, with no husband to support and protect her, after a few months of failing sight became totally blind. Neither of their subscriptions had at the time of their calamity exceeded £20, and they were each of them in the receipt of an annuity from the fund of £60 a year.

Mr. Buckstone, in speaking to the toast, said: The number of our subscribing members is 170. We have seventeen annuitants, to whom, during the year, we have given more than £700; and our capital, when this night is over, will not be far short of £13,000. Our fund is now firmly established, and I hope I may be allowed to assure you it is one of the most flourishing and best-managed institutions in the country. I have also to inform you, gentlemen, that during the past year we have received a legacy of £210 left to us by Lady Morgan—once, as many of you may know, a distinguished writer and the daughter of a theatrical manager. It is to be hoped that her Ladyship's kind recollection of the art she followed in her youth may act as an example to many other wealthy lovers of the drama, and if some of them, who for thirty or forty years have visited the theatre, and enjoyed during that time their hundreds of hearty laughs at some of our comedians, and perhaps tragedians, were only to remember our fund at the rate of a halfpenny a laugh, it would produce a very acceptable sum. Gentlemen, I am sorry to alarm you with the intelligence that I was fearful we should not have met here in this banqueting-hall to-night—in plain words, that we should have had no dinner to-day, as our excellent Lord Chamberlain has given permission that all the theatres may be open this week, except on Friday. To be sure, some of the clergy have striven with might and main to make his Lordship reverse his decision, and so deprive about 5000 or 6000 poor men, women, and children of their daily bread, and when there was not sensible necessity for it; but I am happy to say his Lordship has stood firmly against this forty-person-power pressure. Still, if the Haymarket had been opened this evening, the treasurer of our fund could not have been here; the secretary might have been missing, and you would have found yourselves short of stewards to remind you of your donations. However, long before his Lordship's permission to open in Passion Week was sent to the Haymarket manager he had decided to employ that time in cleansing and decorating the theatre, a process it required after four years' constant use, and preparatory to the opening of the National Exhibition; so, as the Clown says at Christmas, "Here we are again."

Mr. B. Webster, in proposing the next toast, said the hon had that evening been taken off the theatrical profession, and, for the first time, it had been raised one step above acrobatic and niggerish. He concluded by proposing, in very eulogistic terms, "The health of the Chairman," who had not only earned sufficient to maintain his wife and himself in comfort for their lives, but had given vitality to two theatres which it was supposed could not possibly exist.

The Chairman returned thanks, and the list of subscriptions, amounting to several hundreds of pounds, having been gone through, other toasts followed, the intervals being filled with musical selections admirably performed.

THE FORTIFICATIONS AT PORTSMOUTH.—The construction of the forts at Spithead, intended for the defence of Portsmouth harbour, have, as our readers are already aware, been suspended until inquiry shall have been made as to their efficacy in accomplishing the object for which they were being erected. On Tuesday his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, attended by Sir Richard Airey, Quartermaster-General, and Colonel Clifton, Aide-de-Camp, and accompanied by Sir George Grey, Sir George Cornwall Lewis, Lord William Paulet, G.C.B., commanding the south-west district, and Rear-Admiral Superintendent the Hon. George Grey, visited Portsmouth, and embarked on board the Fire Queen steam-tender, Master-Commander Paul, and proceeded out of harbour, to inspect the site of the proposed forts on the Horse, Noman, and Sturbridge Shoals. On the return of the Fire Queen to the harbour his Royal Highness and party landed at the dockyard and visited the Royal Sovereign three-decker, converting into a 12-gun shield-ship on Captain Cole's principle, several of the ships in dock, the police station, and the steam basin, where the Psyche new Admiralty steam-yacht is lying. In the afternoon his Royal Highness visited the fortifications on the east side of the harbour.

FOREIGN WORKMEN AND THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.—A committee has been formed to arrange the proper reception and treatment of foreign workmen who are expected to visit the International Exhibition. The gentlemen who form the committee are:—Sir John Shelley, Bart., M.P.; Mr. Layard, M.P., D.C.L.; Mr. Cox, M.P.; Mr. Marsh Nelson, Mr. O. A. Sala, Mr. J. R. L. Walmley, and Mr. Blanchard Jerrold, the last-named of whom fills the post of honorary manager. It is proposed to lodge and provide for our visitors at cost price, to organize a corps of interpreters, to procure medical attendance, and to arrange excursions to interesting spots in and around London. We think this proposition a very judicious one, and hope it will receive the countenance and support of the public. Subscriptions are invited to defray the necessary expenses of carrying out the project.

THE FRENCH GALLERY.

THAT pleasantest of picture exhibitions, the French Gallery, well lit and cosy, where neither the pictures nor the visitors are overcrowded, and which is so excellently managed by Mr. Gambart, was opened for the "private view" on Saturday. This is the ninth annual exhibition, and the collection, like its predecessors, is not confined to specimens of the French school, for M. Gallait, of whom Belgium is justly proud, is a contributor. The name of M. Cernak looks undoubtedly Russian; and whereas last year we had a landscape from Andreas Achenbach, the great gun of the Düsseldorf school, this year we find in the catalogue the name of Herr Knaus, who, we think, "hails" from the same locality. It is gratifying to find, too, that the exhibition grows in merit with its years, the present being decidedly the best since its institution.

Place aux dames, of whom there are two ranking very highly in the art sisterhood. The incomparable Rosa Bonheur sends a "Meadow Scene," in which are a rough young bull, some cows, and sheep. The painting of the animals, the bull especially, is so marvellous as to leave us no cause for regret that Sir Edwin Landseer is so indefatigably pursuing his leonine studies at the Zoological Gardens as to do but little work for public exhibition, and the entire tone of the picture, landscape and atmosphere, is brighter and better than recent productions. Mdlle. Juliette Bonheur also keeps up the family credit with two pictures of "Dog and Pups" and "Cat and Kittens." The pups and kittens are capital, but the dog is rather queer, and the cat has all the appearance of a comic horned owl. Mdlle. Henrietta Brown's picture of "The Interior of the Harem," where the fat, sensual, sluggish women sleepily peer out of their yashmaks, gives one a notion of terrible dullness: the painting is very good. M. Gérôme, well known by his terribly grand picture of the dying Pierrot in the "Duel après le Bal," sends one picture, "Aspasia's House in Athens;" not good in colour, thin in tone, and generally unsatisfactory. The picture tells no story; perhaps, like the knife-grinder, because it has none to tell—certainly none that would be worth hearing. M. Gérôme must appeal more strongly than this to his public or he will lose his fame.

M. Meissonnier holds his old place of honour over the fireplace, and quite comes up to his former wondrous standard. His "Corps de Garde," a group of soldiers smoking, drinking, and playing at cards, rollicking dogs, jerked, buff-boated, with twirling moustaches and heavy, inflamed faces, is simply perfection. The colour is perhaps a little fierce, but the drawing—notably the foreshortening of the legs of the sitting figures—is marvellous. Admirable, too, is "The Futeplayer," and most admirable the "Punch," an old fellow made up for Polichinelle, practising his humorous grin before he pushes aside the green curtain. M. Ruperes is a favourite pupil of M. Meissonnier, and has profited well by his master's lessons; so well, that his "Soldiers at Leisure" might be taken by many for one of the great maestro's gems: he is not the rose, but he has *rien pris d'elle*, and reaped all the advantage of the proximity.

M. Edouard Frère is in great force this year. His pictures of children are, as usual, unrivalled. In "The Juvenile Holiday" and "The Toyshop on Christmas Eve" there is all that variety of infantile expression admirably rendered, the mastery of which he has long attained. Charming, too, is a little bit—"Doggy Wants my Bread"—where a little girl repulses the cupboard-amatory advances of a big black dog. But best and most touching of all M. Frère's pictures, is "Old Women Mending Nets"—a dull, sombre interior, with two old women bent in silence over their dreary mechanical task, in strong contrast with a bright child playing in the room. At a very long distance off in baby-painting comes M. Duverger, whose "Hush, You'll Wake Baby!" is, nevertheless, a very praiseworthy specimen. Another painter of domestic subjects, M. Laufant de Metz, who sends "The Peepshow" and "The Theatre," while M. Chavet's "The Toilet" is specially noticeable for the clever manner in which the reflection of the girl in the looking-glass is worked out.

At the upper end of the room stands an unfinished picture by the great French master, recently deceased, Décamp. It is called "Truffle-hunting," and represents a peasant leading a pig to dig with its snout for the sought-after delicacies. The pig has just made a "point," and the peasant is anxiously scanning the ground for the truffles. The picture is rough to a degree, but full of power, and no doubt, had the painter lived to complete it, would have been one of his chefs-d'œuvre. M. Lambinet sends his usual neatly-worked, conscientious landscapes; and there is a capital "Portrait of a Lady," by M. Dubufe.

TERRIBLE BOILER EXPLOSION.—LOSS OF TWENTY-THREE LIVES.

ON Tuesday forenoon a boiler explosion happened at the Millfield Ironworks, Priestfield, near Wolverhampton, carried on by Mr. Thomas Rose, and belonging to the Birmingham Banking Company, which has occasioned the death of nineteen persons.

At the time of the accident the puddlers who were working at the four furnaces attached to boiler No. 1 were taking out their charges, and the whole of the machinery of the forge was in full operation, when a report was heard as of a peal of thunder, and in an instant the entire forge was a complete wreck. One of the boilers had exploded. Three-fourths of it, weighing about eight tons, had been forced into the air to a height of between 200ft. and 300ft.; and the remainder, in three portions, had been driven through the forge in three different directions, tearing down the iron pillars which supported the roof and rending the massive timber beams which rested upon them into splinters. The brickwork and masonry of the furnaces, with their contents of molten iron and the burning coals from their fires, completed the catastrophe. Before the flying debris men were driven bleeding and dying, some into boats lying upon the adjoining canal. Several were buried beneath the molten iron. Within an hour after the explosion fourteen bodies had been recovered, all of them shockingly mutilated. In addition to the fourteen found dead, fifteen persons were discovered alive, but the greater number sadly injured. Five of these died almost immediately, four others have expired in the hospital and elsewhere since, and the lives of several more are despaired of. The damage done to the works is estimated at between £2000 and £3000. The explosion cannot be attributed to a want of water in the boiler. There seems evidence of a seam-rund below the water-line and along a line of rivets, the heads of a few of which are burnt off. Here the rend doubtless commenced; and, if the fire had been an ordinary one, it would have been put out by the water which escaped; but the combined flames from the four furnace flues were so strong that steam was generated beneath the boiler, and by the escape of the water an increased pressure took place within sufficient time to produce the explosion.

THE JAPANESE AMBASSADORS IN PARIS.—The Emperor received the Japanese Ambassadors with great state at the Tuileries on Monday. The chief Ambassador made a speech in which he congratulated himself that the treaty concluded between Japan and France would develop friendly relations between the two countries; and he expressed a desire that the Embassy should be conducted back to Japan on board a French vessel of war. The Emperor, in reply, welcomed the Ambassadors to France, and said that the reception that would be accorded them would be calculated to convince them that hospitality was considered among the foremost virtues of a civilized people. He said that he would willingly give orders for their return to Japan on board a French vessel of war, and assured them of his desire to remain in amity with the Japanese empire.

THE PRINCE OF WALES.—Accounts received from Alexandria to the 14th inst. announce that the Prince of Wales's yacht Osborne had returned there, after having landed his Royal Highness and suite, at J. J. A. News has since been received of the safe arrival of the party at J. J. A. It was intended that the Osborne should pick up the party at Beyrout and proceed with them by way of Rhodes, Smyrna, and Constantinople.

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